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Israel

Air Force planes struck Hizballah bases in southern Lebanon for the second time in six hours, attacking the residence of an unidentified pro-Iranian leader, Tel Aviv radio reported. Seven Hizballah members were killed and 18 wounded in the first raid, the radio noted. Meanwhile, the Red Cross urged Israel to stop using "physical and psychological pressure" to extract confessions from Palestinian detainees—a violation of the Geneva Convention, Jerusalem International reported. The Israeli envoy to the International Red Cross in Geneva called the allegations were "inconsistent with the tradition of cooperation and understanding between the Red Cross and Israel," the radio added.

Iran

An adviser to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the United States has hailed the outcome of the Iranian elections in recent messages sent by U.S. National Security adviser Brent Scowcroft, London SAWT AL-KUWAYT disclosed. The adviser said these messages were preceded by "secret talks" between the Iranian deputy foreign minister and former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. The adviser also praised the lifting of the ban on U.S. exports to Iran as reflecting "Washington's desire to deal with the real Iranian situation from a new angle."

Iraq

Jalal Talabani, Mas'ud Barzani and members of the Kurdistan Front held a meeting in Salah al-Din 21 May to discuss the outcome of the elections, according to Voice of the People of Kurdistan. Results from the elections in Kurdistan were "delayed indefinitely," according to Kurdish leaders cited by the press agency. AFP quoted Barzani as saying: "We have a lot of problems." A further report indicated that while Barzani won the elections, he did not win an outright majority, and there will be a runoff election.

Afghanistan

Fighting between Uzbek militia and Hezbe-e Eslami fighters erupted in the outskirts of Kabul the night of 21-22 May, AFP reported. The number of casualties was not known.

Palestinian Affairs

PLF Head on Peace Process, Continued Struggle

LD2105162092 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 May 92 p 4

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abbas, Palestine Liberation Front secretary general—title not given by newspaper—also identified by his nom de guerre, Abu-al-'Abbas, by Wafa' 'Amr in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Amr] How does Abu-al-'Abbas view the current peace process?

['Abbas] It is difficult to give a full picture of the situation in just a few words on such a fundamental issue. I can, however, briefly say that apparent circumstances of that political process and the developments that preceded it at Arab and world levels do not indicate that that political process was born out of normal circumstances. The circumstances which led to the current political settlement plan were not so favorable to the Palestinian revolution as to produce a just settlement for the Palestinian question. On that basis we doubt that Palestinian rights will be fulfilled through the negotiations. On the contrary, we believe that the curent political settlement process will certainly serve the forces prevailing in the region, namely the United States and Israel, because the current balances of power are very much in favor of Israel's expansionist dream. The Palestinians and the Arabs have joined the political process in circumstances not suitable for the promotion of a just settlement. [passage omitted]

['Amr] Do you see any alternative to Palestinian participation in the peace process?

['Abbas] I see no political alternative but the struggle alternative is there. There is no abstract political alternative at this stage but the struggle alternative does exist and, in my view, could be developed and enhanced to pave the way for or contribute to the creation of different circumstances for a political process that would be more balanced than the current one.

['Amr] What are the forms of this struggle alternative?

['Abbas] We now have a great opportunity to exhort our masses and strengthen the intifadah and give it more scope to manifest itself and ensure the continued appearance of the Palestinian struggle on the general map of political action. The intifadah, with the necessary support and correction of the mistakes that have been committed, could be the effective alternative in the next foreseeable phase. That would create new realities that would provide new political remedies, and we would be in a better position than we are now. [passage omitted]

['Amr] What is Abu-al-'Abbas' role at this political stage?

['Abbas] It is to minimize the losses and enhance the chances for the fulfillment of more Palestinian aspirations. I believe this to be one of the most difficult tasks. [passage omitted]

We are not convinced of the political settlement but, at the same time, we do not consider ourselves—or rather we do not turn our backs on an existing central political trend. At times like this we watch our step in the stuggle arena. In the Palestinian arena there is now considerable tension between those who accept, reject, or have reservations regarding the political settlement. Without going into details, we are not convinced of the political settlement. That means we should reject and resist the process, but although we do not accept the peace process, we do not resist those who accept it and we also do not support the position of those who reject it and the method in which they do so. We believe that minimum Palestinian agreement is better than maximum Palestinian disagreement. The extent to which the front can act as a bridge to national unity depends on its national heritage and reputation. I mean that no Palestinian should doubt the front's willingness to sacrifice for the sake of national unity. Our national reputation helps us play the appropriate role of uniting national ranks and minimizing the losses which could result from intense disagreement over the peace process.

We can also work to minimize the dangers resulting from acceptance of U.S. terms or enticements which may not be realistic. That requires escalation of our struggle within the ranks of our people in order not to depart from the sound course in our political work. The more we intensify our struggle work the more we strengthen our credibility and the more our voice is heard in the Palestinian arena in the interest of unity of ranks.

['Amr] The expression of rejection or opposition in Palestinian ranks has in most cases taken a political or dialogue form. There is tension. Do you believe there could be other ways of expressing rejection as this tension which you speak of increases? Are there any red lines in the peace process?

['Abbas] I do not believe in red lines in politics. Anyone who speaks of red lines in politics is not a poltician. Red lines are always for the revolutionaries. Once they cross it they become profiteering politicians. I do not believe in red lines. I believe that the cause of the revolution is one and the same and that the strugglers should use all possible means to achieve the PLO's objectives. There are differences in the national arena. This is a perfectly objective matter. Differences, regardless of their degree of intensity within the patriotic framework, should be tackled through dialogue, but when they go beyond the patriotic framework to the level of the patriotic and the unpatriotic then the patriotic should resist the unpatriotic. [passage omitted]

My personal opinion is that we joined the settlement process at the worst time. We should have waited. With the situation as it is now, maybe it would have been

better and politically more honorable if we joined the settlement process 15 years ago. I, Abu-al-'Abbas, secretary general of an organization and member of the PLO, am having to discuss a decision that is not my decision. I did not approve of that formula. In the Palestine National Council vote I abstained and in doing so I was in fact taking a more rejectionist position than those who voted against. The entire issue in question does not deserve a yes or no. Where are we going? A decision has been made, however. We cannot say that it does not concern us. It does, and we try to vote or rather we try to minimize the loss. I am not convinced by the justifications given by those who support the political process. [passage omitted]

['Amr] Is the armed struggle finished?

['Abbas] No, it is not, but it is going through most difficult circumstances, taking into consideration the changes that have occurred. New realities have been imposed on the Palestinians and on the Arabs in general. That has reduced the chances for reactivating the armed struggle in the ways we used in the past, but the existing alternative is more important than what we had in the past. That alternative is our people at home. The circumstances are more difficult and there are more problems requiring more care and Palestinian ingenuity. The new developments have reduced combat action quantitatively, but we now have qualitative action.

Of course, there is a campaign by some leading symbols of the Palestinian people against armed struggle. They are trying to give the impression that armed struggle is exhausting and harmful and causes problems. My view is that these people are talking from the angle of their own personal problems because armed struggle would certainly prevent them visiting European capitals. In other words there would be losses for them. They do not want what happened to me to happen to them. They do not want to have to think for hours what to do and how to get through it. They do not want to tire themselves and they do not want to pay the price. This, in my view, should create more scope for struggle and combat action to counter the numerical retreat of combat operations.

['Amr] In the past you used to hijack planes and carry out military operations to express your frustration and to draw attention to the Palestinian cause and to injustice to the Palestinian people. Do you expect a revival of such actions as a result of the mounting tension in the Palestinian arena, or perhaps other forms of action?

['Abbas] I believe that there will inevitably be disappointment because the picture drawn for the Palestinians and the hopes pinned on the political settlement are far greater than the actual reality. The Palestinian people are promised independence, an independent state, and big dreams and aspirations. Unfortunately, these promises are made by Palestinians who know very well that the ceiling of the political settlement will not exceed autonomy. The slogans raised, therefore, are much greater than the reality. There will be frustration, and that will be reflected in very big violent reactions. I cannot judge now how the frustration will be expressed but I am certain that our masses' reaction will not be quiet. It might take numerous forms when the Palestinians sense that they have given everything and got nothing. Any people subjected to that kind of situation would react violently, and their reaction would be equal to the magnitude of their frustration. [passage omitted]

['Amr] How do you assess your own experiment? Do you believe the military actions you carried out served or harmed the Palestinian cause?

['Abbas] Judging by popular standards, our experiment has, is, and will always be linked to the feelings of the masses. That is the real criterion. [passage omitted]

We did our people a great service. Even those who favor the political process clearly realize that they would not have been asked to negotiate had it not been for the great sacrifices made, the fighting carried out by our masses, and the efforts we made. [passage omitted]

True, we now see that the academics have now advanced to the front while the fighters have retreated, but that is a traditional development in the lives of nations. I am not at all optimistic, however, that these academics can achieve victory for our people. They are very important to our people and we are proud of them but the current situation and the enemy's hegemony and domination cannot be tackled with just good intentions and a meticulous political approach. Everyone has a duty. The fighter has a duty and the academic has a duty. We represent a basic, if not the basic, link in the national struggle. Some may object. I say some because I still fully remember the violent reactions to our operation on the Israeli coast. The intellectuals were divided into supporters and opposers of that line, but the Palestinian people were not divided. They all supported that line. Even the high-level disapproval was very limited. Six or seven disapproved, but thousands expressed satisfaction. I received hundreds of letters from well-known Palestinian figures in political and academic positions supporting us, encouraging us, and expressing great solidarity with us out of faith that a ferocious enemy can only be deterred with equal ferocity. True, we do not have the enemy's resources but we can inflict minimum losses that would be an expression of our people's inner feelings. In the final analysis, we are fighting for the liberation of the homeland and the others are working for the same objective, each in his own way.

['Amr] Are you prepared to pursue the same line now?

['Abbas] I do not believe in stopping, except in one case, namely when the causes of the struggle disappear, and that will only happen when our Palestinian people's rights are fulfilled; but we certainly do not take military action as a profession. We are fighting for our people's cause, using all means that take us closer to our target, applying the appropriate methods in the appropriate circumstances. Sometimes we let the political voice prevail, but some times the sound of gunfire must

prevail. That is why we will not abandon our convictions and will not give up our armed struggle. [passage omitted]

['Amr] The Security Council has asked Libya to hand over the two suspects in the Lockerbie bombing case. If that happens then Iraq or the PLO might be asked to hand 'Abu-al-'Abbas over. How would you treat such a decision?

['Abbas] (laughing) Actually, that has not occurred to me. I have not thought about it. As a matter of principle, in 1985 when my case was loudly raised, I declared and I told the whole world, especially the United States, that I was prepared to go immediately to the United States to stand trial provided it was a fair trial. I wished that the United States would grant that request. I still wish I could have the opportunity, as a Palestinian, to talk about the Palestinian people's rights from a fair, judiciary, and legal platform. They would then discover that they are the terrorists. If that happened the United States would definitely be convicted. Regarding the Achille Lauro operation, over which they raised hell, my role in it was exactly the opposite of what they portrayed it to be. Everyone knew that the operation was meant to take place in Palestine, in Ashdod. The Palestinian fighters aboard the ship had been deported and could not find a single country to live in. They were on their way to face their enemy in Ashdod.

They were discovered aboard the ship and, to protect themselves, they took control of it. When we heard about that mistake committed by the fighters aboard the ship, the Palestinian leadership intervened immediately. I was a member of the Executive Committee at the time. I intervened not because I was secretary general of the front but also because I was an Executive Committee member. I intervened quickly to put an end to the mistake that was committed. If I had not decisively intervened then, a real catastrophe might have occurred. [passage omitted]

Anyway, if I go to the Security Council, if they request my arrest, then I would be satisfied. At least I would find a place for me to sit. In actual fact, I expected to be in a more difficult position than I am now. A person could have been killed at any moment over the past 25 years. One struggles all one's life.

If the Security Council passes a resolution calling for my extradition, that would be a fulfillment of my wish to have the opportunity to expose the falsehood and lies of the Americans and explain the condition of my people. By the same token, can a head of state whose army committed a massacre be brought to account? We are not Libya and we are not Iraq. I am just an individual, and if the world wants me to stand trial, I am ready provided they treat the Palestinians as a state. They should request my extradition from my state. Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] should have a state to address the extradition request to. If the Security Council passes a resolution requesting my extradition, to whom would they address their request? To Iraq because I happen to be there? That does not concern Iraq. I am not an Iraqi citizen.

['Amr] During the Gulf war, you said that you would carry out military operations in support of Iraq but you did nothing. Why? I believe that the Iraqis and others blame you for that.

['Abbas] I did not say that I would carry out operations. I said that we would fight alongside Iraq, and we did. [passage omitted]

Documentary Shows Israeli 'Terrorist Practices'

LD2105193992 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has announced that a documentary was filmed on the terrorist practices of Israeli murder squads against Palestinian citizens. In a statement issued in Tunis today, he added that copies of this documentary will be distributed to members of the UN Security Council and U.S. Congress because it proves without doubt the terrorist practices of these murder squads.

He said that the Israeli Government set up these squads from armed forces officers who wear Arab dress to infiltrate the ranks of Palestinian citizens in order to assassinate the activists among the Palestinian people's sons and those who fight the occupation.

Bassam Abu-Sharif added that there is no excuse for the United Nations not to take practical steps to protect the Palestinian people against the bloody terrorism of the Israeli Government. He called on the U.S. Administration to get the United Nations to make a move for this purpose on the basis of the UN Security Council resolutions and the principles of human rights.

Bassam Abu-Sharif also called on the U.S. Congress to use one standard when dealing with the Israeli Government's violation of the human rights of the Palestinian man. He recalled that the Congress previously adopted a decision to stop all kinds of assistance to any state that violates human rights continuously for more than a month. He said that this requires the punishment of the Israeli Government because it has violated and violates the human rights of Palestinians continuously for a quarter of a century.

OPEC Affairs

Al-Hiti on Iraq's 'Return' To World Oil Market

JN1805125392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti left Baghdad for Vienna today at the head of a delegation to participate in two ministerial meetings [words indistinct] due to be held in Austria at the headquarters of OPEC's General Secretariat.

In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, the oil minister said that he will participate in the 61st regular meeting of OPEC's ministerial conference, which will be held in Vienna at OPEC headquarters on 21 May and which will be preceded by the eighth meeting of the ministerial monitoring committee to be held next Wednesday.

He said the ministers of the member states will discuss the situation and developments of the oil market during the past period in light of the technical reports prepared by the organization's secretariat and the economic committee, which deal with the changes in and factors that affect the international oil market, as well as the oil production of the organization's member states, and the steps that should be taken to support the price levels and realize the required stability in the oil market.

The oil minister said that the Iraqi delegation will present at the organization's ministerial conference the subject of preparing for the return of Iraq to assume its important role in the international oil market when it resumes exporting oil, especially since the market is currently operating in the absence of a main producer—that is, Iraq—which was denied that role because of the unjust resolutions issued by the United States through the Security Council.

He added that OPEC is at present requested to take the necessary measures to facilitate Iraq's return to the market, indicating that some member states have exceeded their set production quotas within the OPEC ceiling.

The minister explained that presenting this subject to the organization at this time accurately reflects Iraq's concern about the interests of the developing countries which are OPEC members, safeguarding their joint interests, avoiding flooding the market, and the deterioration of oil prices, and the consequences of such developments.

Saudi Delegate Arrives for OPEC Meeting

LD2005220492 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] His Excellency Dr. Fayiz Badr, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers, and chairman of the general ports authority, arrived in Vienna this afternoon. He is to lead the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's delegation at the OPEC meetings, scheduled to begin work tonight.

OPEC Ministers' Meeting Opens in Vienna 21 May

President—'More Sacrifices' Required

LD2105124692 Vienna OPECNA in English 1103 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Vienna, 21 May 92 (OPECNA)—OPEC Conference President Prof. Jibril Aminu said here this morning that OPEC must make more sacrifices if the 21 dollar per barrel reference price is to become a reality.

In an opening address to the organization's mid-year ministerial conference, he conceded that although prices were still far from the 21 dollar level, they were better than the unacceptably low levels seen in January and February this year.

Aminu, Nigerian minister of petroleum and mineral resources, said that OPEC member countries had made sacrifices in reducing production in order to restore confidence in the oil market and allow prices to move towards an equitable level.

The minister maintained that the market was in a reasonably good shape, having successfully ensured that supplies tallied with market requirements.

"Moreover, there are signs the industrial countries are emerging from recession, while rapid economic growth is expected to continue in the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

However, Aminu noted that there were worries of a possible economic slowdown in the traditionally strong Japanese and German economies, although it was not expected that this deceleration would be so pronounced that the growth in world oil demand anticipated for the next quarter or so could be in jeopardy.

"This is not to say we should become complacent. We must continue to take those measures that will strengthen the oil market, while making it possible for us to achieve the minimum reference price of 21 dollars per barrel," he said.

Concerning prices, the minister noted that the OPEC basket of seven crudes had risen from 16.5 dollars per barrel in early January to stand at 18.5 dollars in the first week of this month.

In listing a number of uncertainties in the world oil market, Aminu said that there were elements of oil supply on which the organization had no firm knowledge and there was uncertainty both in their timing of entry and the volume they may place in the oil market.

In addition, he said, discoveries in non-OPEC areas were another source of uncertainty which must be kept in perspective "even though we remain optimistic about the outlook for the oil market".

And, concerning the environment, the minister said that this issue was of considerable worry over the short to medium term and may pose serious problems for OPEC since the organization was being singled out as the one responsible for environmental pollution and global warming.

"We must find solutions to the difficulties posed by these uncertainties, solutions that will be more effective when we put our house in order and heal our wounds in the interest of our economies and our people," he said.

Aminu said that OPEC should continue its cooperation effort with the group of independent petroleum

exporting countries (ipec), a task which would enable oil producers to achieve stability in the market.

"OPEC to my mind has remained the ultimate missionary. Member countries make sacrifices so others, non-OPEC members that is, enjoy even more benefits of the oil market. We need to examine this situation carefully," he said.

Aminu posed the question that there may be ways of making OPEC membership more attractive to other oil producers. "maybe, we ought to begin to look beyond prices, ceiling and quota.... To look at the type of vision which initially led the search for an OPEC long-term strategy?"

The minister noted that OPEC's recent joint seminar on the environment with ipec was also a reaffirmation of the organization's commitment to dialogue between producers and consumers.

"It is my hope the next meeting of oil producers and consumers, which is to be sponsored by the Kingdom of Norway, will give further impetus to improvements in the relationship between oil producers and consumers.

"We must sustain all efforts aimed at restoring confidence between oil producers and consumers," he added.

Production Agreement Sought

LD2105130192 Vienna OPECNA in English 1215 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Vienna, 21 May 92 (OPECNA)—OPEC's oil and energy ministers ended a first session of their 91st ministerial conference today, and will meet in closed session at 1600 hours local time.

The ministers are working on a production agreement for the third quarter of the year. OPEC's present output ceiling stands at 22.98 million b/d [barrels per day].

During the plenary session, United Arab Emirates' Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Yusuf Omeir Bin-Yusuf was unanimously elected president of the OPEC Conference, while Qatari Interior Minister and Acting Minister of Finance and Petroleum 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah al-Thani, was elected alternate president.

In his opening address to the conference, outgoing OPEC Conference President Prof. Jibril Aminu stressed that in order to make the organization's minimum reference price of 21 dollars a barrel a "reality", OPEC must make more sacrifices.

Aminu, who is Nigerian minister of petroleum and mineral resources, conceded that although prices were still far from the 21 dollar level, they were better than the unacceptably low levels seen in the first two months of the year.

'Front' Against Saudi Stance Formed

LD2105185192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 92

[Telephone report from Vienna by unidentified correspondent]

[Excerpts] The first gathering of the 91st session of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, was held today in Vienna. During this one and a half hour session, the president and Nigerian Oil Minister, Jibril Aminu, gave a speech in which he reviewed the oil market during the last six months and the EC plan for taxing oil imports. Referring to the low oil price during last January and February—which was around $16.5 to $17 per barrel—he said: After last March's session and the decision to implement oil quotas and the self-sacrifice of some of the [OPEC] members prices rose to a certain extent. [passage omitted]

After Mr Jibril Aminu's remarks, the conference agenda was discussed and since oil prices were not mentioned in the agenda, it was decided, on a proposal by [Iranian Oil Minister] Mr. Aqazadeh, to add this issue to the agenda, and that bilateral as well as multilateral debate between the oil ministers to find common views should be continued behind closed doors.

Considering our country's oil minister's stress on the serious strengthening of oil prices in world markets and the Nigerian and Algerian support for this position, a strong front has now been formed against the Saudi Arabian position, which has called for an increase in the production ceiling of one million barrels. [passage omitted]

Algeria

FIS Lawyer Received at Iranian Embassy in Paris

LD2105191292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] An APS correspondent said from Paris today that [words indistinct] one of the lawyers of the leaders of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] was received lately at the Iranian Embassy in Paris. The source quoted by APS on this news item did not clarify the nature of the meeting or the rank of the Iranian official who met the lawyer.

Security Forces 'Eliminate' Four After 'Siege'

LD2105172992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Security forces were able yesterday to eliminate four armed people in one of the (?streets) of Belcourt district [Algiers] after a siege which lasted several hours. The armed persons were hiding inside [word indistinct] of one of the buildings situated near (?the cable car line) linking Belcourt and Riad el-Feth. They were involved in the aggression against a police officer in the same district few days ago.

Further on Incident

LD2105202392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Within the framework of the investigations and search for persons involved in various operations, the security organs yesterday morning raided the underground floor of a building in Mohamed Douar Boulevard in Algiers. The individuals who were in a flat in this building opened fire on the security forces who in turn returned the fire. According to the Security Department the clash resulted in three people killed and one injured among those who were in the flat. The security forces found a machine pistol and an automatic pistol. These were identified as having been the weapons of a policeman who was assassinated in Bouzina Street on 10 February in Algiers, and the second was stolen during an attack on a Gendarmerie patrol in Oued Djir on 29 February.

Dismissal of Youth, Sports Minister Denied

LD2005170192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 May 92

[Excerpt] A spokesman for the prime minister's office today denied reports carried by the daily LE MATIN that Youth and Sports Minister Leila Aslaoui has been dismissed. [passage omitted]

Detainees Released From Security Centers

LD2105201492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Yesterday some 43 detainees at Said Utbah security center in Ouargla Province were released. APS which reported the news further said that most of these were from the capital Algiers and that they were taken by bus to their homes.

The agency also said that on the same day some 23 detainees were released from the security center at In Salah and one detainee from In Amguel, which are both centers in the province of Tamanrasset. These were transferred on board a chartered plane to the nearest point to their homes, according to the same source. Another number of detaines are expected to be released during the coming days in Tamanrasset, the agency added.

We would like to recall that the head of the national monitor for human rights told the national radio a week ago that a great number of detainees will be released before the blessed 'Id al-Adha [feast that concludes the hajj].

Egypt

Musa on Libyan-Western 'Crisis', CIS Aid

Hopes for Progress on Resolution 731

NC2105134992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1327 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told reporters today that he hopes some progress will be made during the next few days about implementing Security Council Resolution 731 toward Libya and on getting a handle on the current Libyan-Western crisis.

Responding to a question about the possibility that the British and Libyan foreign ministers will hold a meeting about the issue, Musa said: Libya proposed such a meeting in a memorandum to the UN secretary general. It seems that this issue is under serious study by a number of UN officials.

Regarding his visit to Lisbon tomorrow, Musa said in his statements today that he will participate in the special Lisbon meetings about coordinating aid to the CIS. He added that Egypt participated in the works of a number of committees that prepared for these meetings. He said he will hold consultations with a number of foreign ministers attending the meetings. About his meeting today with the Egyptian delegations that participated in the meetings of the working committees of the Middle East multilateral negotiations, Musa said the delegation heads reported to him about the committees' works and the results of the meetings. He added that contacts will

be held during the coming few weeks between the Egyptian and other delegations to prepare for the next round of committee meetings, scheduled for next autumn. Describing these meetings as "very good," he said they involved serious action, especially the linkage between them and the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks. He noted that the meetings were held within the framework of the peace process that started in Madrid on the basis of the land-for-peace principle.

Regarding the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Musa said that contacts are continuing to hold an extraordinary meeting of Islamic foreign ministers. He added that efforts are now focused on getting Bosnia-Hercegovina accepted as a UN member in order to take the necessary measures to protect its territories from the aggression directed against it. He said Egypt is following this issue within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization and the United Nations and through its other bilateral contacts. He added that this issue was discussed at the recent Nonaligned Movement meeting.

He said that contacts are underway now to protect the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina and that an extraordinary meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers may be held in Turkey to discuss the issue.

Departs for Lisbon Meeting

NC2205101792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0916 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for Lisbon at noon today to participate in meetings due to begin in the Portuguese capital tomorrow of the committee tasked with coordinating aid to the new CIS states. The committee will discuss the amount of aid the independent Commonwealth states need and will designate the necessary funds.

Musa said he will hold a series of meetings on the sidelines of the committee meetings with a number of foreign ministers on that committee. He added that aid for CIS states as well as other important issues will be discussed during these meetings.

Commenting about reports of an imminent relaxation in the Libyan-Western crisis, he said: We hope this is so, and we are working hard to find a solution to this crisis. But before anything else, we are working to stop its escalation and then to reach a solution satisfactory to all parties.

Regarding the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Musa noted that contacts are continuing with the United Nations and Islamic Conference Organization to stop the bloodshed and acts of aggression against Muslims and non-Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The committee for coordinating aid is comprised of 30 countries.

Daily Cited on U.S. Position on Resolution 194

NC2105183492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 21 May 92

[From the "Press Review" program]

[Text] Today's edition of AL-AKHBAR comments about the U.S. position about UN resolutions concerning Palestinian refugees, saying: The real reason the U.S. State Department issued a statement about the official U.S. position about 1948's UN Resolution 194 concerning Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homeland has not come out yet. The State Department confirmed its recognition of this resolution twice.

The paper adds that, by making this announcement, it seems that Washington wants to send a verbal message to the Tel Aviv government. The U.S. position proceeds from the view that the current Middle East peace process is being conducted through direct negotiations between the Arab and Israeli sides based only on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The paper notes that the U.S. State Department spokeswoman said her government insists that the peace talks be confined to Resolutions 242 and 338. But this does not mean that the Arab side is obliged to stop clinging to the resolution about repatriation during the multilateral talks, which applies especially to the committee entrusted with resolving the refugee problem. Several international sides are participating in this committee, which has actually begun to function.

The paper points out that the UN resolution issued 44 years ago is still valid and supported by all international laws and norms, all of which confirm the right for refugees everywhere to return to the land from which they were forced out.

Australian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

NC2005100092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—Gareth Evans, Australian minister of foreign affairs and trade, arrived in Cairo this evening on a two-day visit to Egypt.

During the visit, the Australian minister will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa about international issues of mutual concern, Egyptian-Australian relations, and means of bolstering these relations in all fields.

The Australian minister's talks will also focus on the state of Egyptian immigrants in Australia and how to encourage Egyptian immigration to Australia.

Upon arrival, the Australian minister said that he looks forward to meeting with President Husni Mubarak. He affirmed his country's support for the peace efforts in the region and praised Egypt's efforts in bolstering the peace process.

He added that he will discuss with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa the president's initiative about disarming weapons of mass destruction and making the Middle East region free of these weapons.

Evans said that during his talks, he will confirm the importance of bolstering Egyptian-Australian relations. He pointed out that Australia participated with Egypt in the alliance forces that liberated Kuwait.

Evans' visit to Egypt comes within the framework of a tour of a number of countries in the region.

Meets With Arab League Chief

NC2005100992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans—who is currently visiting Cairo—and his accompanying delegation. They discussed Arab-Australian relations and ways to develop them in the future.

The Arab League secretary general said after the meeting that the Australian minister was eager to be briefed about progress in the Middle East peace process, and 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arabs should continue to participate in these negotiations.

They also discussed the Libyan-Western crisis and stressed the need for a peaceful solution to it.

Says Relations 'Very Good'

NC2005142692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1031 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today met with Senator Gareth Evans, Australian minister of foreign affairs and trade. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, the Australian minister's adviser Paul Obilyar, and Australian Ambassador to Egypt John Crighton attended the meeting.

The Australian foreign minister said after the meeting that his talks with President Mubarak were excellent and marked by a spirit of friendship between two countries linked by excellent ties.

He said his discussion with President Mubarak dealt basically with the Middle East peace process, adding: I conveyed to the president Australia's staunch support for Egypt's constructive and moderate role, which we hope and expect will continue.

He continued: We discussed the future of the peace process and the problems that might arise. Progress in many regional issues could be attained through a spirit of optimism. I discussed with the president the situation in Iran, which I visited some days ago, and the situation concerning Libya and related issues. We also discussed disarmament and scaling down armament in the Middle East, proceeding from our mutual interest in eliminating weapons of mass destruction. Australia plays a role in the chemical weapons issue, because we are a pioneering state currently working for negotiations to reach a permanent accord banning chemical weapons. I was pleased to obtain Egypt's support for the Australian position.

The Australian foreign minister said: President Mubarak and I discussed bilateral relations and the Egyptian economic situation. I was pleased today to meet the president, whom I met back in August 1990 after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. It was a good opportunity to express Australia's strong support for Egypt's admirable role in regional issues.

Replying to a question about the ongoing controversy of the 1948 Resolution 194 between the United States and Israel, he said: Like the United States, Australia supports Resolution 194. We understand that the application of this resolution is both sensitive and difficult regarding the refugees' return or compensating them as an alternative. We believe that such issues should be discussed at the proper time through negotiations when discussing the refugees issue within the context of the multilateral talks. Thus, Australia's position is basically the same as that of the United States, which along with the rest of the world has supported Resolution 194 for many years. Therefore, we do not believe the matter should be controversial at this stage.

Responding to the same question about UN Resolution 194, Minister Musa said: There are two positions about this issue. There is the Israeli position—which rejects the right of return and right of compensation—and there is the resolution itself. The current Israeli Government also rejects other principles and rules regarding the basis of work. The fact remains, however, that the United States and the majority of the world voted for Resolution 194. The right of return remains an essential and basic right for discussion at the negotiations table. How the resolution should be implemented is a subject for negotiations, which is our position.

Concerning statements that Resolutions 242 and 338 are the basis for current negotiations, what is meant here is the resolutions pertaining to the settlement of the conflict. When we get to the details of the issues pertaining to the refugees, the settlements, and so forth, there are rules, principles, and resolutions that must also be considered, all of which fall within the framework of the negotiations. Inasmuch as we reject any unilateral action by Israel, we believe that all issues must be placed on the table, whether they deal with Jerusalem, the refugees, the settlements, or any other issue.

As far as we are concerned, Musa added, Resolution 194 is still valid.

Answering a question as to whether yesterday's statement by U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiller constitutes a reevaluation of U.S. support for Resolution 194, Musa said: I do not think so. There are certain considerations at work now that I cannot discuss. The U.S. position remains extremely positive.

It is important to remember that the United States voted for Resolution 194, he added, and has not changed its position. We must emphasize how important it is to place all issues on the table at the negotiations. We cannot prevent the Palestinians from placing Resolution 194 on the table, which is an acceptable issue and subject to negotiations. Rights exist; nobody can abrogate a right, such as the right of return, the right of compensation, or any other right.

Answering a question about the Libyan-West crisis and whether it was discussed with President Mubarak, Australian Foreign Minister Evans said he discussed the crisis with President Mubarak and with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. He said his country hopes that Egypt will continue its positive role in helping resolve this issue.

Answering a question about a report published by the British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT regarding the Egyptian role and an imminent solution to this crisis, Musa said he welcomes any hopeful comment about the crisis. Egypt, he said, will continue its role and efforts to solve this problem. He noted that the last letter from Libyan Foreign Secretary Ibrahim al-Bishari to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali contained elements that could pave the way for negotiations about implementing Resolution 731. The foreign minister also mentioned statements by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd during his recent visit to Cairo, describing them as extremely positive. He said he hopes a solution to the crisis will be found, adding that the next few days will be decisive.

Musa said he believes that the people's committees in Libya are discussing the issue now, and said: We hope that these committees will make appropriate decisions. We have no right to tell them what to do.

Asked when a treaty banning chemical weapons will be reached, Evans said he hopes the current negotiations in Geneva will end with an agreement about a final draft within two or three months. He added that he hopes that this agreement will then be approved by the United Nations and signed by the end of this year.

Evans also said he would like to see the Middle Eastern countries be among the first to sign the treaty, saying: The ban on producing, stockpiling, and using these terrifying weapons is in everyone's interest.

Asked whether this treaty will apply to Israel, Evans said: Certainly.

The visiting minister was asked whether international efforts to ban weapons of mass destruction is in accordance with President Mubarak's initiative in this regard, and he said: Definitely, yes. There are a number of weapons covered under Mubarak's initiative, including nuclear, chemical, and biological.

He noted that Australia's position supports banning these weapons, saying a ban will have to be gradual. I hope Egypt will be one of the first nations to sign the treaty after it is approved.

Musa discussed Egypt's position about the expected treaty banning chemical weapons, saying: Our position is very clear. We support all efforts to ban chemical weapons. We are participating in the negotiations to draft the treaty. I would like to emphasize that our position about chemical, biological, and other such weapons is a comprehensive one. We support banning all weapons of mass destruction, foremost nuclear weapons.

He affirmed that Egypt supports and will support the treaty banning chemical weapons, adding that all states should join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and that all the countries in the area must be treated equally. We cannot ask all the states in the region to join all the treaties banning weapons of mass destruction and exempt even one state, he said, adding: This principle will govern our position on the treaty banning chemical weapons.

Evans discussed Egyptian-Australian relations, saying: Our relations are very good. Good political dialogue has always existed between both countries. We have worked together, particularly during the Gulf war, and we have a long history of cooperation in war and peace.

Trade relations between Egypt and Australia are strong, he said, adding: Trade is confined to a number of commodities, primarily wheat. He affirmed that this relationship will continue.

Asked whether any new wheat agreements are planned, Evans said: The Wheat Management Board will visit Egypt soon to hold negotiations about next year's wheat contract. We hope that the level of purchases from Australia will remain the same or increase. Egypt is an important market for us.

Musa commented about bilateral relations, saying: We are very pleased with the status of bilateral relations; but we must strengthen them in all fields. We support strengthening trade relations, investment endeavors, and all aspects of economic cooperation.

Wheat Import Agreement Signed

NC2105190492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 21 May 92

[From the "Press Review" Program]

[Text] AL-AHRAM reports that Egypt and Australia signed a new wheat deal that stipulates that Egypt will import 10 million tons of wheat over a five-year period ending in 1994. Under the agreement, Egypt will also obtain 1,100,000 tons of Australian wheat against cash payments. Another agreement was reached, stipulating that Australia will give Egypt 50,000 tons of wheat annually.

Evans Departs 21 May

NC2105183592

[Editorial Report] Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1925 GMT on 20 May reports that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and his accompanying delegation. The report adds: "Following the 90-minute meeting, Evans said the talks dealt with the Middle East peace efforts and Egypt's and Australia's role in moving the peace process forward, particularly regarding the multilaterals and disarmament talks.

"He added that the talks also dealt with ways to further consolidate bilateral relations in various fields, primarily in the economic field, because Australia provides a market for Egyptian products." The report adds that the officials also discussed how to encourage Australian investment in Egypt and touched on the condition of the Egyptian community in Australia.

The report concludes by stating: "President Mubarak this morning met with Evans and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met with him later in the day."

Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic at 0400 GMT on 21 May reports the following: "Official Egyptian-Australian talks opened at the Foreign Ministry last night. Foreign Minister Musa led the Egyptian side and Australian Foreign Minister Evans headed the Australian side." The report adds: "The two sides discussed international issues of common interest, foremost of which are Middle East developments and ways to consolidate the efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue. They also discussed Egyptian-Australian relations."

The Cairo radio report concludes: "At the outset of the meeting, Musa outlined Egypt's position about the peace process, noting the obstacles blocking negotiations. He emphasized the importance of cooperation among all peace-loving forces to find a just settlement to the Palestinian issue based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle."

At 1132 GMT on 21 May MENA reports the following: "Gareth Evans, Australian foreign and trade minister, left Cairo for Amman this afternoon following a two-day visit to Egypt."

Musa Meets With Greek Deputy Foreign Minister

NC1905130192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Viryinia Tsoudherou, who is currently visiting Egypt. They reviewed current issues, bilateral relations in all fields, and ways to boost them. They also discussed preparations for Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis' visit to Egypt.

Following the meeting, Tsoudherou stated that her country supports implementing UN resolutions, expressing hope that Israel will find a way to implement the international legitimacy resolutions after its parliamentary elections. She said Greece is exerting its utmost efforts to help achieve this goal, noting that the Greek prime minister is discussing this issue during his current visit to Israel. Tsoudherou added that the EC is trying to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East, because it is interested in the situation in the region.

Regarding the Libyan-Western crisis, she said that there is a Security Council resolution that must be implemented, everyone should work to put an end to terrorism, and both defendants should be extradited for trial.

Regarding Egyptian workers in Greece, Tsoudherou said that 50,000 Egyptians are working in Greece and are well treated by the Greek authorities, and there are no complaints about them. She added that discussion is now under way about granting Greek citizenship to Egyptians who have been residing in Greece for a long time and that Greece is also seeking Egyptian citizenship for Greeks who have been residing in Egypt for a long time.

Mubarak Invited To Visit Greece

NC2005095592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 May 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Viryinia Tsoudherou said she handed Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa an invitation from Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis to President Husni Mubarak to visit Greece.

Speaking at a news conference she held this evening at the Political Club in Cairo, she said she delivered a similar invitation to People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur to visit the Greek parliament.

Describing her visit as successful, she expressed hope that the visit will mark the start of a new era of cooperation and promotion of bilateral economic relations.

She added that her discussions with 'Amr Musa dealt with issues of mutual concern and the Middle East situation.

The Greek official said that she discussed the Libyan-Western crisis over the Lockerbie incident in depth with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and expressed her hope that a solution satisfactory to all the parties will be found so that there will be no negative effects on Libya.

She noted that her discussions with Egyptian officials also included cooperation between the Mediterranean Sea countries and the means of finding a mechanism for political cooperation between them. [passage omitted]

Regarding the situation in Yugoslavia, Mrs. Tsoudherou said that both Egypt and Greece have underlined the need to halt the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina. She denied reports that Greece is backing the Serbs with weapons.

She expressed her country's desire to participate at all levels in the committees formed during the Middle East peace negotiations, as this could play an important role in cooperation with the EC.

About the Cyprus issue, she said that UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali is exerting strenuous efforts to reach a solution to this problem, expressing her hope that it will be solved.

About the Greek position about Turkey's application to join the EC, she said: There is a clear EC position about this issue. When the Cyprus problem is solved, we will be the first to help Turkey join.

Government Charged With Human Rights Violations

NC2005203592 Paris AFP in English 1920 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Cairo, May 20 (AFP) - An Egyptian human rights group on Wednesday charged the government with gross violations in 1991 despite official figures showing a 22 percent drop in the number of political detainees.

The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) said in a report issued here that the Gulf crisis and subsequent war had adversely affected human rights in the Arab world in general and in Iraq and Kuwait in particular, adding that the conflict had been hard on Egyptians in those two countries. It said some of the Egyptians there had been mistreated to the point of torture and death.

It also charged that Egyptians who opposed their country's involvement in the war against Iraq were subjected to violations of their rights and freedom, as stated in the Constitution and international human rights agreements. Turning to Egypt's continued implementation of emergency laws, first slapped after the assassination of former President Anwar al-Sadat in October 1981, the EOHR said the legislation was renewed last May for another three years, with all the rights accorded the interior minister regarding the detention of suspects without trial.

EOHR Secretary General Bahaeddin Hassan told reporters 11 people had disappeared and 11 others killed last year.

The report said the Egyptian prime minister had repeatedly pledged the law would not be applied except under strict conditions and that the interior minister said it was needed to confront cases of terrorism.

But, it insisted, the emergency law was used in 1991 for the detention, trial and torture of writers, journalists, members of cultural groups and members of the EOHR. "Opinion trials continued, peaceful meetings were banned, the police confronted peaceful demonstrations with armed force and forms of collective punishment took place in different parts of the country," it said.

On torture and mistreatment of detainees, the report said the practice had continued in 1991 in prisons and police stations and included cases of sexual abuse. "Other methods of torture such as hitting with whips or sticks on different parts of the body, hanging upside down and using electrical shocks have all continued," it said.

Although complaints were lodged to the interior minister, there were no improvements in detainees' conditions, it said, prompting the EOHR to launch a year-long campaign in December 1991 to seek an end to torture in Egypt, it added.

The report said 1991 was further marked by human rights violations against some Egyptians for merely stating their opinions, adding that the actions included confiscation of books on art and free thought. "It is worth noting that the Ministry of Culture and some of its bodies have joined the parties which practice confiscation of the freedom of creativity, a matter which totally contradicts its role," it said.

The human rights group said it had faced the same problems as the previous year in collecting its data, namely the lack of sufficient certified and specific information on human rights violations. "This report depended in its material on complaints which the EOHR received, reports prepared by its workers" and sources provided through newspapers and news reports on the matter.

It said the organization expressed lack of cooperation from Egyptian Government bodies.

Mauritania

Boubaker Interviewed on Domestic, Regional Issues

PM2205110892 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 May 92 p 5

[Interview with Mauritanian Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker by 'Abdallah Ould Mohamedi in Nouakchott; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mohamedi] After the appointment of your new government within the framework of the promised change, what are the broad outlines of your program?

[Boubaker] The government's program, which is being prepared, espouses the pledges included in President Maaouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya's election program. The program's broad outlines center on the following basic foundations:

In the political field the program will work to establish a rule of law state and to create suitable conditions for the democratic life that our country is experiencing after establishing the democratic institutions emanating from the 20 July 1991 constitution and working to consolidate them.

In the economic field, the program will draw up the methods to reduce the balance of payments deficit, to strengthen the domestic financial balance, to achieve a real economic balance in the country, and to prepare an economic base to facilitate the development process by encouraging exporting sectors, correcting the conditions of public sector establishments, and creating favorable conditions for national and foreign investment to ensure balanced and rapid economic growth.

As for the social field, the program will concentrate on raising citizens' living standards and improving health and education services both quantitatively and qualitatively. [passage omitted]

[Mohamedi] The Mauritanian position on the Libyan crisis is somewhat unclear. What is the official position on the crisis?

[Boubaker] Mauritania is member of the seven-member committee, which includes the Maghreb states and is tasked with seeking a peaceful, acceptable, and legitimate solution to that issue. In this context our country—in coordination with the brothers in the Arab Maghreb—is doing everything to help the committee carry out its task quickly. [passage omitted]

[Mohamedi] It is said that there are secret clauses which were not included in the agreement concluded between your government and the Senegalese Government. What are these clauses, and what has been achieved with regard to resolving the refugee problem?

[Boubaker] Presidents Ould Taya and Abdou Diouf decided to restore relations between Mauritania and Senegal to safegaurd our goodneighbor ties and out of concern for the two neighboring peoples' interests and security in the region. There are no secret clauses which have not been declared. There is a joint technical committee between the two countries. It is discussing ways of settling the situation concerning the evacuees from both sides who were affected by the April 1989 incidents. The committee is continuing its work in a regular manner and in a fraternal atmosphere.

Prime Minister Departs for Talks in France

LD1805225592 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 18 May 92

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubakar left the capital this afternoon for Paris on a visit during which he will hold talks with senior French officials. This visit falls within the framework of strengthening the excellent relations between the two friendly countries and establishing (?fruitful) cooperation in all fields. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With French Officials

WA2205114392

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Boubaker to France, including reports on his talks with French officials, please see the France section of the 22 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Sudan

Iran Sets New Conditions for Weapons Sales

NC2205104692 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 May 92 p 6

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Excerpt] The "Brothers" page has learned from ranking Sudanese military sources that Sudanese Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman visited Baghdad and met with President Saddam Husayn early this week. The sources said that the Sudanese chief of staff's visit to Baghdad came in the wake of Iran's procrastination in responding to the request made by Lt. Gen. Hassan to visit Tehran three months ago.

Lt. Gen. Hassan had asked to make both of these visits due to the Sudanese Army's acute shortage of military equipment. The sources pointed out that Iran's new conditions to the military government in Khartoum possibly could have prompted Iran not to approve the Sudanese chief of staff's visit.

Hasan al-Turabi [leader of the Sudanese National Islamic Front] has denied reports that Sudan obtained weapons from Iran, while Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul has confirmed them. Military sources have told the "Brothers" page that Iran sets arbitrary conditions in return for its cooperation with the military government in Khartoum.

Last month, al-Bashir's government was compelled to accept Iran's conditions for purchasing Sudanese wheat at a low price of $350 per ton, whereas the international price of wheat is $800 per ton. The sources said that Iran resold the wheat at $750 per ton. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Names New Ministers, Governors

EA2205100092 Khartoum SUNA in French 1620 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Khartoum, 21 May (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and of the Council of Ministers, signed a

decree today dismissing Colonel Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman, RCC member, as governor of the Central State and appointing him minister of culture and information.

Gen. al-Bashir's decree also provides for the dismissal of the governor of Eastern State, Colonel al-Awad Muhammad al-Hasan, and for his appointment as governor of Central State. It provides for the appointment of Colonel al-Jayli Muhammad Sharif, former commissioner of Kosti Province in Central State, as governor of Eastern State; the appointment of Dr. 'Abdallah Idris as minister of justice and state prosecutor; and the appointment of Dr. Colonel Babikr Kabalo as minister of health in Central State.

Gen. al-Bashir has also decreed the appointment of Mr. Angelo Beda as minister of political affairs in Equatoria State.

ICRC Envoy To Discuss Children Held by Rebels

EA2105113592 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 20 May 92

[Summary] Khartoum, 20 May (SUNA)—The operations manager of the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] in Geneva, John de Kortin, has arrived here for talks with Sudanese officials on the children detained by the rebel movement. Husayn al-'Ubayd, Khartoum state's health minister, told AL-SUDAN AL HADITH today that Sudanese officials were trying to free these children, who numbered 27,164.

Kuwait

Demarcation Committee Upholds Previous Borders

LD2105190292 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Excerpt] Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman said that the international committee for the demarcation of the borders between Kuwait and Iraq has ratified the borders which were drawn up in the past and did not introduce any new demarcation of the borders. In an interview published in the London AL-MAJALLAH magazine, he said that Kuwait did not take any part from Iraq; on the contrary the Iraqi regime violated Kuwaiti territories. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Addresses Nation on Anniversary of Unity

JN2105201292 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 92

["Important Political Statement" by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, on the second anniversary of national unity; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Say work righteousness: Soon will God observe your work, and His Apostle, and the believers. [Koranic verse]

Brother free citizens, our great Yemeni masses in all the places of work, heroes of the Armed Forces and the Public Security forces in the bastions of honor and heroism in all parts of the homeland, it pleases me during these glorious moments of our Yemeni people's history, moments during which they rejoice in their national feast, the second anniversary of the Republic of Yemen, to extend to you in my name, and on behalf of the brother members of the Presidential Council, the most sincere congratulations on this beloved occasion. On this occasion, our people witnessed the dawn of their unity on 22 May 1990 and thus ended forever the state of division inherited from the imamate and colonialist eras. On this occasion, our people have restored our homeland's unity and attained the strategic objective which has been the most cherished dream of the various generations of the contemporary nationalist movement. Our people have also adopted the 26 September and 14 October revolutions as one of their main objectives, and as their firm principles which have been baptized by the pure blood and the momentous sacrifices of all Yemeni nationalists who remained loyal to principles, while their determination did not weaken in the face of difficulties and the conspiracies which sought to entrench the political partitioning of the homeland, keep its people weak and divided, and scatter the people's powers and resources.

Brother citizens, our people achieved their great unity victory after protracted tribulation and struggle. Unity has become a well-established fact. The birth of the Republic of Yemen has come to crown the costly sacrifices and the peaceful and democratic process of dialogue which have extended over the march of the Yemeni revolution. The establishment of the Republic of Yemen has also substantiated the free Yemeni will and has explicitly embodied the reality of this age. The foundations of the new Yemeni state genuinely express the components a new state should possess in the legislative, administrative, and organizational fields under constitutional legitimacy and the principles of democracy, justice, and equality.

The establishment of the new Yemeni state has coincided with a series of major developments and changes witnessed by the world over the past few years and comes to reaffirm our Yemeni people's genuine civilization and their ability to assume the position that they deserve among all nations.

Sons of our esteemed Yemeni people, two years have passed since the establishment of the Republic of Yemen. This is a short period, especially in terms of time but great in terms of historic dimension and achievements. Even though the past two years have been replete with Arab and international developments, which have had a great impact on the political and economic situation in our country, we have, thanks to God, fulfilled a great move by entrenching the pillars of the united state in the midst of tumultuous storms and great challenges which have accompanied our united state since the first few months of its establishment.

Our people can verily be proud of the large strides they have made along the road to completing the building of the state and unifying its institutions and bodies in the executive, legislative, judicial, and other branches. A large body of laws has been enacted to replace the laws of the partitioned state. The labor market and the monetary system have become united throughout the large Yemeni homeland. Much has been accomplished in the sphere of creating the appropriate atmosphere to encourage free investments with national, Arab, and foreign capital. Oil and gas resources gushed forth in more than one location in the homeland. New vistas have been opened for development and investment prospects in our country. These would not have taken place in such an expeditious and comprehensive manner had the homeland remained partitioned and fragmented. The few remaining months of the transitional period will witness further action in the field of completing other legislation and laws, foremost being the law on general elections, the law organizing the bearing of arms, and the law on the public commission for cooperation and development. The government will also direct its efforts to redress the deficencies from which the national economy suffers.

This applies to the imbalance between production and consumption, the vast gap between expenditure and revenues, the deficit in the general budget and the

balance of trade, as well as administrative deficiencies and other problems and difficulties that we seek to overcome through the implementation of the national reconstruction plan and political, economic, administrative, and financial reform.

O masses of our militant people, in the past two years our country witnessed important changes, represented by the expanding democratic practice. Many parties and political and mass organizations have been established. Political headquarters have been opened publicly in various governorates and districts of the Republic. Within the framework of political pluralism, a large number of party and private papers and publications have been issued. Within the framework of democratic practice, various peaceful manifestations of the freedom of expression have materialized.

These changes have led to the emergence of a new role for public opinion in the society's political, economic, and social life. A new reality has also emerged in light of the democratic atmosphere and political pluralism. However, all these positive changes have not been void of some shortcomings and mistakes and attempts at political extortion, which accompanied our pluralistic democratic experience. In addition, there have been plots by hostile powers that do not wish to see Yemen enjoying a free democratic option. This explains the occurrence of some events which are alien to our people's morals, traditions, and norms, such as political assassinations, acts of sabotage, and terrorism. At any rate, we reaffirm our faithful belief that democracy can only be dealt with through further democracy.

But with respect to acts that are listed as crimes threatening the homeland's security, stability, and national unity, we will confront them firmly and through legitimate means that enhance the authority of law and order and confront whoever is tempted to harm the homeland's security or to conspire against its democratic course and national sovereignty. We believe that there is no democracy without protection and no protection without the enforcement of law and order. We are confident that the masses of our people and all political forces will safeguard democracy in a spirit of responsibility, national loyalty, and the disavowal of any loyalty other than to God, the homeland, and the revolution. Freedom and democracy are the people's rights and the source of their strength.

As we most zealously, sincerely, tolerantly, and patiently pursue our experience in democratic practice, we all should learn from it. Some parties' mistakes should be rectified. It should be entrenched in everybody's hearts and daily practice that democracy is a living school in whose cultural domains Yemenis' creative potential are revealed. The major challenge along this path is to turn democracy into a personal experience for us as a people who have strong links with the practice of consultation, collective cooperation, and respect for human rights. This is the clear path that requires everyone to channel democratic practice toward serving the interests of the homeland and people, translating development aspirations, and scoring further achievements and successes in Yemen.

We truly hope that everyone will be eager to move the homeland to the stage of constitutional legitimacy through the legislative elections for the forthcoming Council of Representatives in implementation of the unity agreement. We hope that everyone will have a spirit of national responsibility, which requires more national cohesion, unity, and honorable peaceful competition through platforms. We deeply believe that under the current difficult circumstances, there is no alternative to national participation to perform the national tasks, which no one can perform individually.

In this regard, we would like to stress the state's determination to secure the appropriate circumstances and climate for the holding of general free and democratic elections, and to respect the results of the ballot boxes and voters' will.

Free brother citizens: The tasks of reconstruction and the challenges are not easy at all. The homeland continues to have major concerns. The development concern leads other concerns, for which all resources and efforts should be mobilized to overcome our country's economic difficulties, which are the outcome of the exceptional circumstances experienced by the region and our country in particular. This is in addition to the drought that continued for many consecutive years. All these factors had a negative impact and repercussions on the economic and development situation in general and citizens' living standards. Citizens, especially low-income segments, are currently suffering from continued price hikes and living difficulties. We stress the need for the government, with all its competent departments, to perform its responsibility toward tackling all deficiencies and providing living stability for citizens.

Brothers, Free Citizens: The main feature of young countries and living peoples is embodied in their ability to deal with the facts of the age in which they live, and their ability to affect and to be affected by what is going on around them at the international level in general, and within their regional area in particular.

Although internal construction demands the lion's share of the government's attention, this attention can never be detached from the larger attention given to the foreign policy of our country, which is based on the principles of respect for sovereignty and independence, noninterference in the internal affairs [of others], and on resolving all conflicts through peaceful means. It is also based on respecting international charters and norms.

On these bases, our country will relentlessly seek to become a source of strength, development, progress for itself, for its neighbors, and for all its brothers, and a main factor for the attainment of security and stability. This was what we stated the moment the Republic of Yemen was born, and this is what we will continue to work for and seek to realize at the level of the Arabian

Peninsula, the Gulf, the states of the Horn of Africa in particular, and the other sisterly countries in the Arab homeland in general. We will always seek to realize harmony and integration between our country's own interests and those of each Arab nation.

On this occasion, we emphasize the desire of our country to settle the border issues with its neighbors through peaceful and legal means, expressing our great satisfaction over the large stride made by negotiations on borders between our country and our brothers in the Sultanate of Oman. This stresses the fact that the only way for resolving border disputes between neighboring countries is through dialogue, joint understanding, mutual respect, and guaranteeing the historic and legal borders of all parties.

Sons of our great Yemeni people: The political, economic, security, and environmental challenges which the Arab homeland and the world are facing necessitate a new shape of relations based on adequate thinking, joint cooperation, and balance of interests. The challenges make it a must for the Arab countries to rise to the level of these challenges by restoring Arab solidarity and giving priority to pan-Arab interests.

We in the Republic of Yemen will remain faithful to anything that protects the interests of our nation, safeguards its sovereignty, and leads to the attainment of a just and lasting peace in our region. This peace will continue to be conditional on the attainment of the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and right to set up their independent state on their national soil.

In this context, we express our sincerest wishes that the peace negotiations sponsored by the United States and Russia will result in the realization of a just and lasting peace in our region, which stands as the most dangerous hotbed of tension threatening world peace in this new stage of humanity's history. We stress our country's desire to actively participate in the international community, to contribute to world peace, expand the links of understanding and rapprochement among all nations and peoples, and to abide by international legitimacy in light of equal relations among countries based on justice, freedom, and equality.

Brother Citizens: Yemeni unity is the achievement of the whole people and no power on earth can encroach on it or undermine the democratic and civilized approach that has been entrenched by the contributions of all free and faithful Yemenis, who embodied their commitment by shouldering their holy nationalist responsibilities in all working fields and under all circumstances. Foremost of these Yemenis stand the personnel of the great national establishment; the Armed Forces and the Public Security forces. This establishment which continued since the dawn of the Yemeni revolution and will continue to be generous in their sacrifices, and will continue to be the sincere guard who is keen on all gains of the revolution, the Republic, and our unity.

I extend heartfelt and sincere congratulations to all heroic fighters; soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the Armed Forces and the Public Security forces on the occasion of this national day, praying to almighty God to always help us double the victories and to take care of our people while they are making qualitative, creative, productive steps forward on the road of civilization and progress.

Peace be upon you.

Would-Be Assassins of Justice Minister Caught

JN2105202792 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Excerpts] Brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas this morning chaired the weekly cabinet session. [passage omitted]

Brother Colonel Ghalib Mutahhar al-Ghamish, interior and security minister, presented a progress report about the implementation of the security plan and the ban on the carrying of weapons in Sanaa and the provincial capitals. According to the report, the would-be assassins of brother Justice Minister brother 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam have been caught and their accomplices are being sought. The report also featured information about the number and types of weapons and unlicensed vehicles, as well as suspects in crimes of banditry [al- taqattu'] that have been seized. The cabinet stressed the need to follow through on executing the security plan and to expedite interrogations ahead of putting criminals on trial to receive due punishment. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Kurdistan Elections, Results

Elections Fit 'U.S. Scenario for Iraq'

JN2105133192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 21 May 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—BABIL has charged that foreign powers applied pressure on the Kurdistan Front to suspend its dialogue with the leadership in Baghdad.

In an editorial today, the paper said these powers went so far as to threaten the use of force against certain Kurdish parties when the leadership and the front were close to signing an agreement on autonomous rule.

BABIL emphasized that Tuesday's elections in the region were conducted so as to suit a U.S. scenario for Iraq. Washington and its agents wanted from the elections to leave Kurdistan in a state of political flux and to create circumstances conducive to confrontation, violence, and bloodshed rather than negotiation.

The paper blamed the executive branch in Kurdistan and some Kurds for failing to assume their national responsibilities and for creating conditions furthering foreign anti-Iraq objectives.

The executive branch failed to measure up to the ideas of the leadership in Baghdad or its concern to put into effect broad development plans, thus promoting a political vacuum. In the meantime, a great many Kurds made of themselves hirelings and professional murderers and vandals of public property—so much so that instability turned into a goal pursued by gangs of saboteurs.

Discussing the sequence of events that have swept Kurdistan since the halt of the dialogue between the leadership and the Kurdish parties, the paper said that, despite all that has happened, it is not too late for a more sensible approach and a halt to collaboration with foreign powers.

It should foil the criminal machinations of the Americans and their agents and, most of all, the Iranian regime to pursue the political and peaceful process.

Such an approach, added BABIL, would reflect an interest on the part of all parties concerned with the unity and independence of Iraq and the rights of its people. [passage omitted]

Results 'Delayed Indefinitely'

NC2105143692 Paris AFP in English 1306 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq, May 21 (AFP) - Results from Iraqi Kurdisan's first independent elections were delayed indefinitely Thursday as Kurdish leaders conferred here on the formation of a new government coalition.

"We have a lot of problems," said Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) and a principal candidate for supreme Kurdish leader in elections held Tuesday. He was speaking at his mountain headquarters here after emerging from a four-hour meeting arm-in-arm with his chief rival, Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

"We are discussing. We are not finished yet," he told reporters, adding that a resolution—which he did not specify—could be reached later Thursday.

Officials supervising Tuesday's vote, which was also to choose a 105-member parliament, had said results would be announced late Wednesday or early Thursday. It was unclear from Barzani's remarks just when the outcome would be known.

A DPK spokesman said leaders of the Kurdistan Front, a coalition of Kurdish parties, would meet with the election supervision committee later Thursday. "Some of the results have not come through yet," explained DPK spokesman Hoshyar Zebari, when asked the cause of the delay.

Party representatives at some of the 176 polling stations were declining to sign the local results, which would then have to be sent on to Irbil for an overall outcome, he added. "The overall picture was satisfying," Zebari said, stressing that the DPK agreed with an assessment from Michael Meadowcroft, an international observer with the London-based Electoral Reform Society. Meadowcroft told correspondents after briefing officials of the DPK and the PUK that his team had found "no evidence of substantial over-voting" that would have been caused by defective ink.

An indelible liquid, hastily developed by Kurdish chemists over the week end to mark voters and prevent repeated trips to the ballot box, was found to have been easily washed off.

Kurdish leaders earlier Thursday said that in the face of fraud allegations, raised by smaller parties, they intended to form an all-party governing coalition.

"We discussed how to be partners and to form a coalition and executive body, despite the final results," said a spokesman for the Kurdistan Front following an initial round of consultations Wednesday night.

The two main parties in the Front, the DPK of Barzani and the PUK of Talabani, differ primarily in their approach to the central Iraqi government under Saddam Husayn.

While Barzani supports autonomy within Iraq and backs continued talks on self-rule with Baghdad, Talabani takes a harder line, advocating a federation with Iraq and international mediation to resolve the conflict with the central government.

Kurds in northern Iraq staged an abortive rebellion in March, 1991, following the Gulf war, and have since

then been living under a security umbrella provided by allied military forces stationed in Turkey.

Mamhud Osman, head of the Kurdistan Socialist Party, said the goal of electing a single Kurdish leader and parliament and then forming an executive committee had been too ambitious.

The possible emergence therefore of a joint leadership—probably along the lines of the existing Front—was likely to come as a blow to Barzani, who according to his rivals in the PUK had insisted on holding a leadership poll as well as a legislative election.

Talabani, Barzani Hold Meeting

NC2105191492 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] We have received the following report: The political leadership of the Kurdistan Front held an extraordinary meeting in Irbil last night. The meeting was attended by brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and brother Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK].

The conferees stressed the need to maintain the unity of the front's ranks and the Kurdish people. They also called for full cooperation among the Kurdistan Front's parties in all domains.

We have received another report: Talabani's PUK Political Bureau met with Barzani's DPK Political Bureau in the summer resort of Salah al-Din at noon today.

The results of the Higher Committee supervising the National Assembly elections of Iraqi Kurdistan have not reached us yet. Moreover, no details have been released on the topics discussed at this meeting.

Dear listeners, we will provide you with any further details as they become available. The committees supervising the elections continued to count the votes today.

Leaders To Discuss Results Before Posting

NC2205070392 Paris AFP in English 0630 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, May 22 (AFP) - Iraqi Kurdish leaders were set here Friday to discuss the results of Tuesday's leadership and parliamentary elections before they are to be made public.

"We will meet to hear the results and take a final decision on them," said a key leader, Mas'ud Barzani of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), after a meeting in Salah al-Din of the Kurdish groups that control northern Iraq.

He did not specify when the results would finally be announced, but Front sources have warned that they could be withheld longer "to avoid troubles."

The judge in charge of the polls, Amir 'Abd-al-Karim al-Hawisi, said the outcome had been held up because the vote from Dahuk and al-Sulaymaniyah had not arrived in Irbil, the third Kurdish-held region.

A Dahuk judge arrived here with the votes under armed escort overnight.

The elections were contested over a single constituency, and the final results are to be compiled in Irbil, the seat of the 105-member parliament to be formed by the elections.

Barzani said the outcome was, however, expected to be known privately later Friday and that the leaders of the Kurdistan Front coalition and an Islamic movement would then meet here for their third such session in as many days.

The Front has already held more than ten hours of consultations since the elections, amid charges of fraud levelled by the smaller parties.

"When you are cooking, for example, a turkey, you need two hours. When you are cooking a chicken, you need only one hour," explained Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) at a joint press conference with Barzani.

"We are cooking...a cow," he added, with prompting from Barzani.

"There is no problem at all between the PUK and DPK," insisted Talabani, trading jokes with his main rival in the leadership polls. "We are trying to convince the others."

Barzani confirmed earlier reports that one of the main problems within the Front was over the seven percent hurdle for the smaller parties to win parliamentary seats.

The small parties, according to partial results, have been mauled in the polls, falling below seven percent, and they have protested what they claim is widespread fraud in the voting process.

Front sources said the leadership was considering scrapping or lowering the hurdle to accommodate all parties and maintain unity.

Al-Hawisi brushed aside the allegations of any serious distortion in voting. "In my view, the elections were conducted in a very satisfactory way," he told reporters on the sidelines of the latest meeting of Kurdish leaders.

Barzani Reportedly Wins Election

NC2205112592 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, May 22 (AFP) - Mas'ud Barzani, who backs negotiations with the Iraqi Government, won elections for leader of an autonomous Kurdistan and his party won the most seats in parliament, a rival Kurdish leader said Friday.

The head of the Kurdistan Socialist Party, Mahmud 'Uthman, said Barzani, the leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, "had won" these elections, but that there were no official results.

Barzani Wins, But Second Round Needed

NC2205122292 Paris AFP in English 1150 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, May 22 (AFP) - Mas'ud Barzani edged Jalal Talabani for leadership of an autonomous Kurdistan, but failed to win an outright majority and will have to face off in a second round, Kurdish officials said.

Barzani, head of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) which backs more autonomy talks with Baghdad, easily beat Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, (PUK) in Dahuk, but only edged him in Irbil, the officials said.

Talabani and his PUK, which opposes further negotiations with Baghdad and backs a federation with Iraq, had a clear victory in the third main Kurdish region of al-Sulaymaniyah, the officials said.

The DPK also had a narrow edge for seats in the 105-member parliament, they said.

The head of the Kurdistan Socialist Party, Mahmud 'Uthman, said Barzani "had won" these elections, but that there were no official results and the victory was small.

'Uthman added that differences between the DPK and PUK were "even less significant in the election for parliament."

Other Kurdish leaders, such as Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, head of the People's Democratic Party of Kurdistan and officials with the electoral committee in Irbil confirmed the results.

But they gave no details on the number of votes.

Observers Issue Statement on Election

NC2205065492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1519 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] A team of international observers has described the election in northern Iraq as organized and [word indistinct]. They noticed some problems, however, with respect for the secrecy of balloting.

A statement by the five-man team of international observers said that the Kurds in northern Iraq presented the region with a [word indistinct] example of multiparty democracy despite enormous pressure and [word indistinct] conditions.

The statement said the observers found [word indistinct] free and respectable. They found that the election law has been finalized and that measures have been taken to contain changes in it.

The statement adds that the observers will supervise the process of counting the votes.

Over 1 million Kurds took part in the elections. The voting stations closed at midnight last night. [as heard]

Reportage on Turkish Food Trucks Crossing Border

Trucks To Cross in 'Next Few Hours'

JN2005161292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Reliable sources have affirmed that Turkish Customs Department officials at the Ibrahim al-Khalil border bridge resumed their work this morning to complete passport procedures and allow Turkish trucks to cross into Iraq.

These sources affirmed to an INA correspondent in the Fa'idah area that hundreds of Turkish trucks laden with hundreds of tonnes of food supplies will enter Iraq in the next few hours.

As of 1230 today, the INA correspondent had not seen any Turkish trucks in the Fa'idah area, with the exception of some 20 trucks parked near the security checkpoint since yesterday because their loads did not conform with regulations; that is, because they were carrying loads smaller than those prescribed. He indicated that immediate action was taken at noon today to allow those trucks parked in the Fa'idah area to enter Iraq, even though they violated regulations regarding prescribed loads.

Turkey Holding Trucks Carrying Supplies

JN2005155792 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Dahuk, Fa'idah, May 20, INA—In collaboration with the Kurdistan Front parties, Turkey has stopped trucks carrying essential foodstuff to cross the border into Iraq.

Sources said the measure, which went into effect as of Monday, was temporary and related to the fake elections in northern Iraq on Tuesday.

Officials of the Turkish Customs at Ibrahim al-Khalil border bridge have received telephone instructions from the government to stop passport formalities for Turkish truck drivers.

INA correspondent at the border area says that hundreds of trucks carrying foodstuffs bound to Iraq can be seen standing in long lines waiting to cross the border.

Trucks Arrive in Fa'idah; More Expected

JN2005195492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] A responsible source at the customs complex in the Fa'idah area of Dahuk Governorate has affirmed

that more than 100 Turkish trucks, laden with various food supplies, have arrived in the area.

This source indicated to an INA correspondent in the Fa'idah area of Dahuk Governorate that he expects the arrival of more than 500 trucks in the area over the next few hours.

Turks Engaged in Manhunt To 'Decimate' PKK

JN2205141892 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 May 92 p 6

[By Mahdiyah Salih]

[Excerpt] Last Tuesday [12 May], units of the Turkish military and gendarmerie initiated a sweeping manhunt to decimate the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK].

News reports speak of many Kurds being killed in barbaric massacres in southern and southeastern Anatolia, close to the Syrian-Iraqi border.

Determined to end the PKK's military presence in areas where its fighters set off to attack Turkish Army and security positions and government targets, the Turkish military has expanded the scope of its operations.

Political observers point to an agreement signed recently between Turkey's Interior Minister Ismet Sezgin and the Syrian regime banning Kurdish military activity along Syrian border areas. The agreement also called for the closure of a Kurdish training camp in Lebanon's al-Biqa' Valley, and granted the Turkish Army the right of hot pursuit for 10 kilometers across the border inside Syrian territory. PKK elements recently intensified their activities in reaction to the foot-dragging by the government of [Turkish Prime Minister] Suleyman Demirel in making good on its pre-election promises to satisfy at least some of the Kurds' political and cultural demands. By stepping up their military activities, the observers note, the PKK has thus given the Turkish military more leeway in pursuing them. [passage omitted]

UN—Missile-Producing Equipment Destroyed

JN2205111692 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 May 92 p 1

["Monitoring Service" report]

[Text] UN experts have asserted they had inspected missile manufacturing equipment which had been destroyed by Iraq without international supervision.

Tom Brock, head of the 11-member team, said his team visited three sites and inspected parts of equipment previously used to repair and manufacture Scud missiles.

Brock said the UN team's work is going on in a normal way.

Team Head Says Inspection 'Going Well'

JN2205121892 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 May 92 p 1

["Monitoring Service" report]

[Text] Tom Brock, chief of the UN ballistic missiles team, who is currently visiting Baghdad, has said that within the course of his visit, he toured seven to eight sites. Brock said the Iraqis have indeed destroyed equipment used in the manufacture of ballistic missiles and that the inspection process is going well.

He said that what he saw agrees with the Iraqi statements.

ICRC To Meet 'Shortly' To Discuss POW's

JN2105170092 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, May 21, INA—Head of the International Red Cross Commission [ICRC] Arthur Besk [name as received] said the committee would meet shortly in Geneva to discuss with Iranian officials the repatriation of the remaining Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) still held captive in Iran.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, published today, Mr. Besk said the committee in Geneva pursued efforts to return of 20 thousand Iraqi (POWs) still detained in Iran though war between the two countries had ended 4 years ago.

Saudi-Egypt-UNESCO 'Conspiring' on Holy Site

JN2105152292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has denounced [Saudi King] Fahd and [Egyptian President] Husni [Mubarak] for conspiring against the Palestine question and for paving the way for Zionists to control Islamic shrines.

In a commentary published today, the paper says that these two regimes have provided the Zionist entity with pretexts and given it a legitimate cover to control al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, as well as offered their services within a plan drawn up in Washington to carry out undertakings that would ultimately enable the Zionists to tighten their grip on the Dome of the Rock.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Fahd has submitted a program for the restoration of the Dome of the Rock and offered sums of money as a first installment for this program through UNESCO.

The paper says: Since UNESCO is an international organization, then this action clearly means that the Saudi regime is trying to eradicate the Arab and Islamic identity of the mosque and internationalize it, thus bowing to U.S. and Zionist demands.

The paper adds that the head of the Egyptian regime, for his part, has ordered Egyptian companies to take the tender's designs for the restoration of the holy Dome of the Rock from UNESCO. These Egyptian companies have contacted UNESCO despite their knowledge that the organization has been dragged into this issue without having any right to do so.

AL-THAWRAH says that Saudi Arabia recently sent a delegation to occupied Palestine headed by 'Abdallah al-Ajnah, the adviser to King Fahd, who discussed with the Zionists coordinating issues concerning the settlement and normalization of relations with the Zionist entity.

The paper says the Saudi game has been exposed and this, in turn, has led Palestinian religious quarters and Jordanian newspapers to launch a campaign exposing this trend being implemented by the Saudi rulers against Islamic shrines in occupied Palestine.

AL-THAWRAH points out Jordan's unequivocal rejection of these games of one-upmanship being played by some people in hopes of winning prestige by restoring the Dome of the Rock, the care of which Jordan has been seeing to ever since the days of al-Sharif Husayn Bin-'Ali.

The paper adds that the Saudi rulers should have preserved the Islamic shrines on the peninsula from the filth of U.S. occupation and not resorted to games of one-upmanship on the restoration of the holy Dome of the Rock.

Journalist Urges UNESCO To End Blockade

JN1905144892 Baghdad INA in English 1222 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, May 19, INA—Iraqi Journalists Union President Mr 'Udayy Saddam Husayn has urged head of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to condemn and end the embargo imposed on Iraq for about two years now.

In a telex to UNESCO chief whose organisation has recently marked the international day of freedom of press, the Iraqi Journalists Union president drew the attention of the international body to the sufferings of the journalists and other Iraqis because of the American-led allied aggression and the unwarranted continuation of the economic blockade.

The Iraqi journalist leader told the UNESCO chief that this blockade, in its 21st month now, has deprived Iraqi journalists of liberty of getting proper news and information direct from their sources.

He added that Iraqi dailies and printing presses are also deprived of important papers and other printing materials.

Mr 'Udayy Saddam Husayn expressed his union's support for the efforts by the UNESCO "in defending the freedom of journalists and for espousing their professional and political causes".

He said he hoped that the UNESCO chief "will do his best" to end the sanctions and, consequently, the grievances of the Iraqi journalists, thus enabling them to play their vital role in the profession.

Minister Discusses Aid With UNICEF Envoy

JN2005165192 Baghdad INA in English 1523 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, May 20, INA—Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak minister of health and acting labour and social affairs minister met here today Dr. Mourzi [name as received] representative of the UNICEF in Baghdad.

The two officials discussed cooperation relations between Iraq's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the UNICEF in the field of humanitarian assistance to offer food and medicine to the Iraqi people to alleviate their suffering as a result of the U.N.-imposed unfair economic embargo which claimed lives of thousands of children, women and the elderly.

Dr. Mubarak urged the UNICEF organization to exert serious and effective efforts for releasing the Iraqi assets frozen abroad to enable Iraq purchasing the necessary materials.

Saddam Congratulates Salih on Yemeni Anniversary

JN2205082492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 22 May 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Republic of Yemen's Presidential Council, on the second anniversary of the establishment of the united Yemeni state. [passage omitted]

Sudan's Efforts To Reconcile Syria, Iraq Fail

NC1605172892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 May 92

[text] Sources in the Syrian capital have reiterated that the recent efforts carried out by Sudanese leader 'Umar al-Bashir to reconcile Syria with the regime of the outcast tyrant have failed. The sources said that this is due to Syria's commitment to the UN resolutions imposed on the Saddam regime and to the lack of confidence between the two sides.

Escaped Nuclear Scientist in Hiding in Tehran

PM1905145992 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 May 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Sources Reveal: Iraqi Nuclear Scientist Shahristani Alive, Residing in Tehran"]

[Text] Tehran—SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned from informed Iranian sources that the well-known Iraqi nuclear scientist Dr. Husayn Shahristani has been

residing in Iran since a few months after his escape from prison during the Gulf war. He had hidden in a northern area in Iraq for several months.

The sources said that Shahristani, who belongs to the well-known Shahristani family and is a relative of the late scholar Ayatollah El-Ozma Shahristani, was working at the Iraqi "Tammuz" reactor when Israeli aircraft bombed it at the start of the Iraq-Iran war. The Iraqi authorities arrested him on charges of cooperating with Iran and involvement in the operation to attack the reactor. An Iranian source who met with Shahristani after he turned to Iran said that Shahristani was exposed to brutal moral and physical torture in Saddam Husayn's prisons, where he spent a full eight years in solitary confinement.

As is known, the Iraqi opposition announced after Shahristani's arrest that he had died as a result of torture, and international human rights organizations confirmed the senior nuclear scientist's death in their reports.

The Iranian sources said that Tehran has allocated guards to protect Shahristani, who resides in a building in north Tehran.

'Aziz, Hammadi Address Symposium on Current Issues

JN2005095692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1722 GMT 19 May 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)—The second intellectual symposium organized by the Culture and Information Bureau at the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party opened here today. The three-day symposium is entitled "Arabs Under the Current International Situation."

Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, member of the National Command and deputy chief of the Culture and Information Bureau, delivered an opening speech in which he said that the subjects to be discussed "are preoccupying the minds of all intellectual and political leaders in the Arab world under the current international circumstances."

He noted that the papers presented to the symposium are not official; they are simply views raised for free discussion to enrich dialogue.

He expressed confidence that the participants will make effective contributions, as was the case at the first intellectual symposium, which discussed the congress of jihad and construction.

Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, adviser to the presidency, then read his research paper entitled "Oil and the Current International State of Affairs." The research provides figures on oil reserves in the Arab world and on oil production in every oil producing Arab country.

Dr. Hammadi stressed that oil wealth constitutes a formidable Arab force capable of substantially influencing the policy of Western countries, especially the United States, if the Arabs use it correctly to serve their own ends. [passage omitted]

Dr. Hammadi reviewed the conspiracy implemented by Saudi Arabia and the other oil Gulf states against Iraq by flooding the oil market so as to create a drop in prices. He said that this caused great damage to Iraq, which had just emerged from an eight-year war with Iran. [passage omitted]

Dr. Hammadi affirmed that the possibility for historic and decisive solutions to the most important problems that concern the Arab nation does indeed exist. What is lacking, however, is a political will capable of utilizing this force. He stressed that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates are held fully responsible for this situation.

In remarks afterwards, comrade Tariq 'Aziz asserted that the capabilities of the Arab nation are still greater than what has been stolen. This needs a free Arab political will, however, like that of Iraq.

He explained that the Gulf regimes were originally installed in the Arab oil regions by the British, with American support, to protect oil reserves and to perform treasonous roles like those they played in the Mother of Battles.

He said that the Saudi regime had managed to deceive Arabs and Muslims into thinking that it was only a conservative right-wing regime enjoying relations of friendship with the West. The Mother of Battles, however, exposed the treason of this regime and its complete subservience to the West.

Participants in the symposium, representing various cultural and intellectual sectors, will discuss eight research papers pertaining to a balanced distribution of wealth, pan-Arab security in President Saddam Husayn's thought, the facts and prospects of the current international situation, the future of the international order, and President Saddam Husayn's political and military vision.

Premier, Military Industry Chief Discuss Plans

JN1805163692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi today visited the headquarters of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO] and met with Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic and MIO supervisor. They reviewed the MIO's achievements and progress in the field of civil industrialization, especially agricultural requirements.

The prime minister valued the great role played by the mujahidin of military industrialization and their qualitative strides in the field of civil production in record times. He noted the implementation of giant strategic projects, notably the Third River-the main canal, on

which MIO teams have started work, and which will efficiently help reclaim and irrigate large areas of agricultural lands, with a view toward increasing agricultural production in Iraq.

The prime minister stressed that upon the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn, the MIO enjoys full support and backing in its efforts to implement projects and tasks assigned to it. He praised the great role played by Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan in upgrading the work of the MIO and its industrial formations, noting the constant success the organization has scored in the service of our great people.

The president's adviser announced that the MIO will produce thousands of al-Nida' agricultural tractors this year, starting in early June, in accordance with certain regulations set by the organization. He pointed out that the regulations give priority to families of martyrs and to holders of medals and badges in recognition of their roles in glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and the historic showdown of the Mother of Battles.

Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan stressed that thousands of tractors will be produced next year. He referred to the phase of abundant and continuous production during which every citizen will receive his needs for perpetuating and promoting agricultural production at appropriate prices that suit agricultural sector workers.

He announced that the first Iraqi agricultural bus will be produced in August, while electricity- and diesel-operated water pumps will be offered next week to meet the needs of peasants and farmers.

Minister on 'Advanced Power Stations,' New Dams

JN1705104392 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 May 92 p 1

[By an unidentified AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent]

[Text] Baghdad—Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals, has affirmed that Iraq is now capable of designing, assembling, and operating advanced power stations. He indicated that there are currently two dams under construction, the Badush and al-Baghdadi, which will add to the present eight dams on the Tigris and Euphrates. He said this will increase Iraq's hydroelectric capacity.

In a statement to an AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent at the conclusion of a seminar on the reconstruction of the establishments of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals held in Baghdad from 11-13 May, the minister said that the next century will witness conflicts over water. Therefore, construction of dams is a strategic target that contributes to power generation and storing water in huge reservoirs for use during dry seasons. He explained that besides being a source of power generation, the water held behind dams can be beneficial by coordinating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to organize and distribute water for agricultural and flood control purposes.

Dr. al-Sa'di explained that the ministry possesses the required technology to generate hydroelectric power through storage. This can be achieved by using surplus energy, while demand for electricity is low, to pump large quantities of river water with turbines to relatively high storage tanks for use when there is a maximum demand for electricity.

Concluding his remarks, he said that the siege under which the Iraqis are living has unleashed the Iraqis' creative potential, making it possible to reuse available raw materials and save large amounts of state money.

Adviser Announces Start of 'Third River' Project

JN1605165692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 May 92

[Text] Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to his excellency the president and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], has announced the start of the great national campaign to complete the project of the main canal of the third river. This canal will be 565-km long and will serve 6 million donums of agricultural land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.

In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan added that the MIO has mobilized all of its potential and its financial and human resources to build large networks of canals extending from the al-Ishaqi canals to the coast of al-Basrah near Jarimah. These networks are supposed to converge in a large main canal, the third river, which is expected, hopefully, to be completed within a few short months. The main canal will be 8 meters deep, 90 meters wide, have a base width of 36 meters, and will pass through Hawr al-Hammar and (Hawr al-Likkab).

This vital project, Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan added, will be accompanied by efforts to build 84 bridges that are to be distributed to three sectors. In the northern sector, the effort will comprise a length of 188 km extending from the al-Ishaqi canal to the al-Musayyib canal. This will involve the building of 71 bridges: 33 bridges for vehicles, 35 bridges for pedestrians, and three bridges to be used by locomotives. The central sector will be 187 km long and will extend from the end of the al-Musayyib canal to the city of al-Nasiriyah. It will involve the building of five bridges to be used for vehicles. These bridges will allow for shipping traffic to pass. The southern sector will be 190 km long and will pass near al-Nasiriyah city up to the end of the main canal. Eight bridges will be established over it, two for railroads and the others for vehicles.

In his statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan indicated

that to pump water, a large pumping station with a capacity of 220 cubic meters per second will be built. The station will pump the water from the Euphrates through 350 meters of a reinforced concrete structure having three holes, each four by five meters wide.

Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan noted that the capacity for pumping water at the northern end of the project will total, when the project is completed, 88 cubic meters per second, whereas the capacity for pumping water from the shipping canal in the central part of the project will total 75 cubic meters per second.

Responding to a question from the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY on the other services this project will provide, Staff Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan said that the third river can be used for river shipping activities, such as the transportation of goods from Shatt al-'Arab to the city of al-Nu'maniyah in the Wasit Governorate. Four concrete installations will be built for this purpose on the al-Basrah coast, the intersection of the main canal on the Euphrates, and at the Dalmaj site. This project will also involve the building of sluice gates to raise water levels when necessary to ensure that ships, barges, and boats can pass. In addition to this, the following things will be built: outlets for secondary canals, passageways for irrigation streams, and crossing points and regulators for emergency pumping. He indicated that firms representing the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation will support MIO personnel in the implementation of this giant project.

Concluding his statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, he said: The MIO personnel who will work day and night to achieve the miracle reflecting Iraqi willpower and complete this vital project, will present this accomplishment as a gift to His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn and the great Iraqi people. This project will enable them to cope with the circumstances created by the continued unfair economic blockade enforced by the states of the treacherous U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

Minister Comments on Increasing Mortality Rate

JN1705205792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 17 May 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA)—Umid Midhat Mubarak, health minister and acting labor and social affairs minister, has appealed to humanitarian and international health organizations to extend medical aid to the people of Iraq given that the mortality rate among its sons, particularly infants, has increased as a result of the unjust blockade. In a statement to INA, the minister said that the aid presented by humanitarian and international organizations does not cover more than 10 percent of Iraq's real need for medicines and medical supplies.

The minister said that the mortality rate among children and the elderly has increased recently as a result of the continuing blockade and the deprivation of medicines to the sons of Iraq. This shows, he added, the brutality of the advocates of human rights and the imperialists and Zionists who boast about these rights. It also demonstrates their departure from heavenly values and teachings.

Dr. Umid Midhat expressed his regret that these organizations have ignored their true role and have not rushed to help Iraq. He noted the hospitals' severe shortages of vaccines and medicines for chronic and contagious diseases, as well as the severe shortages of auxiliary medical supplies. He noted that as a result of this, many surgical operations are not being carried out.

Ramadan Visits al-Najaf, Holds Party Meetings

JN2105163492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, today visited al-Hurriyah subdistrict in al-Najaf Governorate. He convened a meeting at al-Hurriyah Division headquarters, attended by comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of Iraq Command, who is in charge of the Central Euphrates Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organizations; al-Najaf Governor Karim Hasan Rida; the comrade secretary and members of the al-Najaf party branch command; party and administrative officials; and district tribal chiefs and notable figures.

The vice president emphasized that a (?new) state of developing substantial relations between our people and party organizations and state agencies is the most potent weapon in the hands of the Iraqis against their American and Zionist enemies, and their allied agents and lackeys. He said that the daily achievements in civilian industrialization in the areas of agriculture, industry, construction, and rehabilitation will help us utilize all agricultural land and provide a practical answer to all forms of conspiracy and aggression.

Vice President Ramadan also visited al-'Abbasiyah subdistrict in al-Najaf Governorate. He convened a meeting at al-'Abbasiyah Division party headquarters attended by the comrade secretary and members of the division command, and administrative officials and tribal chiefs in the subdistrict. The vice president said that Iraq, which—led by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn—has become a solid base for the Arab nation, will prove too tough for the enemies to destroy or hamper its revolutionary development program. He emphasized that thanks to its leader, the symbol Saddam Husayn, and its heroic people, Iraq will remain great. The people of the subdistrict renewed their vow to His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn to remain faithful and committed soldiers under his courageous leadership. They stressed that they will redouble their efforts to abort the aggressive chapter of the embargo, just as they did the 30-state aggression by routing its treasonous chapters, which were implemented by agents of imperialism and Zionism.

The vice president was accompanied on his visit to the subdistrict by comrade 'Abd-al-Rahman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the Iraq Command, who is in charge of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Central Euphrates organizations; al-Najaf Governor Karim Hasan Rida; and the comrade secretary and members of al-Najaf party branch command.

Medals of Valor Presented to Army Officers

JN2105150892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Deputizing for His Excellency President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, fighter Staff General 'Abd-al-Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, today presented medals of valor to a number of active and retired officers in recognition of their heroic stand and extreme bravery in defending great Iraq and the honor and dignity of the nation in the glorious battle of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah [Iran-Iraq war] and the major duel in the Mother of Battles.

To mark the occasion, a ceremony was held which opened with recitations from the holy Koran. The opening chapter of the Koran was read aloud for the souls of those who rank highest among us—the martyrs of Iraq and the Arab nation. Next on the program came the reading of the presidential decrees whereby the honored officers were awarded their medals of valor. The ceremony was attended by Staff Gen. Iyad al-Sayyid Khalifah al-Rawi, chief of staff; his aides; staff general [not further identified], the secretary general of the Defense Ministry; and brigadier general pilot [not further identified], the director of moral guidance at the Defense Ministry.

Saddam's Son To Head New 'Greens Party'

NC2105170592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Kurdistan Revolution Radio in Arabic 1519 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The Iraqi regime has formed a new group managed by Saddam's son, 'Udayy. Some of the members of this group are personalities who have devoted themselves to the service of the regime and its evil objectives. This group is called the Greens Party.

In a statement carried by REUTERS today, one of the officials, a man named Mazhar 'Aridi, a man dedicated to the service of the regime, claimed that the objectives of the Greens Party is to combat the smuggling and the [word indistinct] of chemical and nuclear weapons.

It is known that the Iraqi regime, on which the United Nations continues its pressure, still hides a huge quantity of such weapons.

[Words indistinct] with the approval of the regime to register the Greens Party, thus expressing his confidence of the disapproval [words indistinct].

Shelling Kills, Wounds 'Scores' of Civilians

NC2105164492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Scores of people have been killed or wounded in the past two days as a result of the tyrant's forces concerted artillery shelling against defenseless civilians in the marshlands of Basra, al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah.

Sources of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] said that Iraqi helicopters took part in the attacks on marshland areas in southern Iraq, targeting the inhabitants.

Regime Reportedly Training Anti-Iran Terrorists

NC2105173292 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1315 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The delapidated Saddam regime is preparing for sabotage operations against Iran. The terrorist regime is training a (?terrorist) group similar to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, which is opposed to the Islamic regime in Iran. The aim of this terrorist group is to assassinate Iranian officials and blow up the Iraqi aircraft that took refuge in Iran during the oil war in the Gulf.

Our sources reported this earlier, warning the regime against taking such a [word indistinct] step. Commenting on this cowardly move, an official in one of our revolutionary committees said: Our Iraqi Muslim people showed their identity and affiliation when they launched their blessed uprising. They now express their rejection of all the Ba'thist regime's hostile actions. Our people are standing with their brothers and neighbors to establish a basis for peace and love. They condemn the hostile spirit which the fascist Ba'thist regime is trying to spread.

Home of Pro-Iranian Leader Hit in Lebanon Raid

Second Air Force Attack 21 May

TA2105135192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] There was another Israel Air Force [IAF] attack in Lebanon this afternoon. This is the second attack today. Here is our army affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum with the details:

IAF planes attacked Hizballah targets in southern Lebanon today. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman confirmed the attack and reported that all targets were hit and all our planes returned safely to base. This is the second IAF attack in Lebanon today, coming six hours after the first.

Initial reports from foreign news agencies in Lebanon report that IAF helicopters participated in the raid and attacked the residence of a pro-Iranian leader. The name of the official or of his organization was not mentioned.

Six hours earlier a Hizballah base near Janta, close to the Syrian border, was attacked. Seven Hizballah men were killed and 18 were injured.

Arens on Anti-Hizballah Strikes

TA2105150392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 May 92

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good day, Defense Minister Arens.

[Arens] Hello, and good evening.

[Friedman] The Israel Air Force [IAF] conducted two operations against Hizballah targets in Lebanon. We also have reports on ground fire exchanges in various locations. It is only a little after 1700 and there is still enough light. Have we launched an all-out attack on this terrorist organization?

[Arens] We are simply continuing our battle against Hizballah, which has stepped up its terrorist activities in southern Lebanon in recent months. This is in order to stem their activity and put an end to it.

[Dan] One of today's attacks took place very close to the Syrian border. The question is whether we are thus attempting to signal to the Syrians that Israel expects them to restrain the Hizballah?

[Arens] We certainly expect that from the Syrians. There is no need to signal anything. The Hizballah could not operate if the Syrians decided to stop their activity. Most of the Hizballah bases are in areas directly under Syrian control. In fact, all of Hizballah's activity takes place in areas in which the Syrians exert a great deal of influence. We will not let Hizballah think that their bases are safe from our attacks just because they are some distance away from southern Lebanon.

[Dan] Is there no danger of provoking the Syrians and getting involved in a confrontation with them?

[Arens] No, the provocation comes from the other side. The provocation is against us. Their activity is directed against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the SLA [South Lebanese Army], and against the citizens of the State of Israel.

[Friedman] Did the Syrians, who control the area attacked this morning, open fire at the planes flying overhead?

[Arens] To the best of my knowledge they did not.

[Friedman] What will happen if the Syrians fail to understand our clear signals?

[Arens] We will do all that is necessary to protect the residents of northern Israel and to maintain the safety of IDF and SLA soldiers in the security zone.

[Friedman] Even if that requires moving the targets a bit farther eastward, deeper into Syrian territory?

[Arens] I do not think that we should announce our intentions and issue declarations of this kind. However, it is clear to everyone that we must prevent the terror activities of the Muslim terrorist organization, Hizballah.

[Friedman] As for this afternoon's helicopter attack, what stood out most was the fact that some of the targets—according to the reports of foreign news agencies in Lebanon—were the residences of Hizballah leaders. This brings us to back to the issue of personal retribution against the people who stand at the head of this terrorist monstrosity in Lebanon. Does Israel really intend to keep on striking at the leaders themselves?

[Arens] We will fulfill our obligation to do everything necessary to terminate Hizballah's activity. This includes striking at their soldiers, or more correctly terrorists, and also striking at their leaders and bases.

[Friedman] We still have a score to settle with Hizballah over the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. Will this score ever be settled?

[Arens] I think that Israel has the reputation of a country that never fails to settle all its accounts.

[Friedman] One more question, Mr. Arens. Four SLA soldiers have been taken captive by Hizballah. They were publicly paraded today in Hizballah headquarters in Lebanon. Who will be in charge of efforts to get them released?

[Arens] We exert efforts to effect the release of every captured or missing SLA soldier. We have done this in the past and we will continue to do so in future.

[Friedman] Thank you, Defense Minister Arens.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 21 May adds that "Defense Minister Arens said that an escalation with Syria has already become a fact in the field as a result of Hizballah's increasing activity." Arens added that "if the Syrians decide to restrain Hizballah, the problem will be resolved."]

Arens—Syria Must 'Rein In' Hizballah

TA2105165092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 21 May 92

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by army affairs correspondent Karmela menashe on 21 May—place not given; recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Menashe] Do you not fear an escalation with Syria following these attacks?

[Arens] Such an escalation has to all intents and purposes already taken effect in the field. This is a result of Hizballah's increasing activity. The Syrians can definitely restrain Hizballah, as the latter's bases are all situated in areas under Syrian control. If the Syrians decide to rein in Hizballah, this entire problem will disappear.

[Menashe] Did Israel make any kind of approach to Syria on this issue?

[Arens] The Americans discussed the issue in Damascus approximately a month and a half ago, in the wake of talks we held with the United States.

[Menashe] This is the first time in four years that an SLA [South Lebanese Army] outpost has been attacked. Do you believe that Hizballah has become more daring than in the past?

[Arens] I do not think it is a question of daring. Several years ago, Hizballah carried out similar operations. We have already explained several times what has happened. Following the establishment of the central government in Beirut and the disarming of the militias, Amal, which was the dominant militia in the south, was dismantled. Thus, the element which had restrained Hizballah in the past no longer exists, and Hizballah feels free to carry out such activities.

[Menashe] Do you estimate that there was some inside information or collaboration with Hizballah on the part of the SLA?

[Arens] I have no evidence of this suspicion and I will therefore not confirm it.

Gen Mordekhay—Situation 'May Escalate'

TA2105201092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Northern Command, this evening met with the leaders of the northern settlements. At the meeting Major General Mordekhay said the situation on the northern border may escalate and katyushas may be fired at Israel. Gen. Mordekhay made it clear that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is making every effort to stop Hizballah's anti- Israeli activities and thanked the settlement leaders for their steadfastness.

Authorities 'Considering' Kalmanovich Release

TA2105184292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Jack Katzenell on 21 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, has confirmed that the Israeli authorities are considering a request for clemency from Shabtay Kalmanovich, who is serving a nine-year sentence for spying for the Soviet Union. He also confirmed that the former Soviet Foreign Ministry official, Yevgeniy Primakov, and other Russian figures had appealed for Kalmanovich's release on grounds of ill health. However, Ben-Aharon emphatically denied that Israel's ambassador in Moscow had promised that Kalmanovich would be released as soon as Moscow restored diplomatic relations with Israel.

[Begin recording] [Ben-Aharon] What we understand took place was that when our representative in Moscow was approached on the issue of the release of Mr. Kalmanovich from prison, he said that the first thing that needs to be done is to reestablish diplomatic relations, and subsequently the issue will be dealt with by the competent authorities in Israel, and this is indeed what has been taking place.

[Katzenell] There was a report that Kalmanovich might even be released and remain in Israel because he has business interests here. Is such a thing feasible?

[Ben-Aharon] It is feasible if he is an Israeli citizen, and to the best of my knowledge he is, and we have been informed that he has no intention of leaving the country after his release. So this might well be the case.

[Katzenell] Is this a problem between Israel and the Russian Government? Is this clouding relations?

[Ben-Aharon] Not to my knowledge, no. It is an issue that was raised, but not on a formal level, not on a government-to-government basis, not at all.

[Katzenell] Do you think that the Israeli Government, the Israeli authorities, feel particularly bitter about the Kalmanovich case because he was a Soviet Jew who came here and made good here?

[Ben-Aharon] Not necessarily. We took into consideration the possibility that the Soviet authorities at the time took advantage of the emigration of Russian Jews and, how shall I say, enlisted their services as spies for the country, which is something that was a known practice in those days.

[Katzenell] Is it still a known practice, or is the relationship between Israel and the [former] Soviet Union quite different?

[Ben-Aharon] Oh, the relationship has very definitely made a turn for the better, but as you well know, the practice of conducting espionage or collecting information is very widespread, even among allies and friends. [end recording]

Contract To Refurbish 'Soviet' MiG's Sought

TA1705134592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 May 92 p A5

[Report by Ron Pundaq]

[Text] Moshe Qeret, the director general of the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI], told the journal MATARA [TARGET] that the IAI is still trying to get the contract to refurbish Soviet MiG's. Qeret said: "The MiG-21's and MiG-23's, and even the MiG-29's, are definitely possible targets for us."

Qeret visited a Russian plant which manufactures the MiG's and received a photograph of an aircraft with a special inscription from its developer, Mikoyan. He also said in the interview that plant representatives visited the IAI in Israel. "We sat with them and discussed everything. Some of them served in Egypt during the war of attrition and fought against us. This is a new reality which includes economic options, deals which up to very recently we did not even dare to dream about."

According to Qeret, the Russians developed "not bad, even good" aircraft, although they still cannot be compared with the advanced U.S. planes. During his tour of the Russian plant, Qeret did not find anything surprising in aeronautics or technology.

In Qeret's view, the problem of the Russian aircraft is its lifespan, which is reduced by the air maneuvers. The engines are eroded and the aeronautics are not the best.

The increasingly obsolete aircraft are currently being operated by many air forces around the world and those not in use could be a potential source for IAI refurbishing.

The IAI has up to now refurbished French- and Israeli-made Mirages and outdated U.S. Phantoms, Skyhawks, and F-15's.

IAI sources said that Qeret visited Russia several times and held a dialogue with their representatives on the possibility of refurbishing Russian Air Force MiG's. The IAI presented the Russians with concrete and detailed technical proposals to refurbish MiG-21's and MiG-23's.

The proposals include work on various parts of the aircraft, including the cockpit, strengthening the planes' bodies, flight control systems, aeronautics, and various electronic systems. The aim is to make the aircraft operational in the modern battlefield as was done with the Israeli Phantoms, which are now called the Phantom 2000.

Despite the contacts with the various Russian authorities, some of which were also held at the Paris Air Show, the two sides have not reached any agreement. The issue was also raised in April during the Russian deputy president's visit here. The main issue holding up such a deal is that it might reach hundreds of millions of dollars, while Russia's means of payment are very limited.

Another deal between the IAI and Russia which fell through because of budgetary reasons was the refurbishment of the Russian Ilyushin passenger planes. That deal, which was to have been a joint Israeli-Russian-American effort, reached advanced stages. The IAI was to have provided the know-how and management, the Russians the body of the plane, and the Americans advanced engines.

During the negotiations with the Russians, dozens of IAI engineers visited Russian plants several times and studied in depth for the first time the technology and engineering capability of Russia's aircraft industries.

UK Assured of Vanunu's 'Proper Treatment' in Jail

TA2105192092 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Israel has promised Britain that Mordekhay Vanunu, jailed for having disclosed Israel's security secrets, receives proper treatment in jail. The House of Lords was told this today in reply to questions concerning Vanunu's jail conditions. Israel reported that Vanunu is held in a larger cell than usual and has radio and television sets, books, and papers, in addition to the right to receive visitors. As may be recalled, Vanunu disappeared during a stay in London in 1986 and was later tried in Israel.

Red Cross Urges Halt to 'Ill Treatment' of Prisoners

TA2105175992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Israel has been urged by the International Red Cross to stop what it called the ill treatment of Palestinian prisoners during interrogation. The statement issued in Geneva accused Israel of using physical and psychological pressure to prize information and confessions from detainees, in violation of the Geneva Conventions. The International Red Cross said confessions obtained under duress preclude any fair trial.

Israel's ambassador to the international organization in Geneva, Yitzhaq Li'or, has expressed deep regret over the International Red Cross statement. Such a public statement is inconsistent with the tradition of cooperation and understanding between the Red Cross and Israel, Li'or said. More from our diplomatic correspondent Jack Katzenell:

Israel has a policy of ongoing review of its human rights practices, Ambassador Yitzhaq Li'or said. A supreme court of Israel is currently reviewing interrogation procedures. This matter is also being examined by high-level government authorities. Li'or said that in the light of the cooperation and openness always demonstrated by Israel toward the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], Israel finds it most regrettable that the ICRC has chosen to express its position through the media. It should be noted that in 1979 Israel voluntarily entered into an agreement with the ICRC, allowing it unprecedented access to detainees under interrogation. In the framework of this agreement, ICRC delegates have met in private with virtually every detainee. Israel has made every effort to facilitate the ICRC visits to all detention facilities and prisons in Israel and in the administered areas, Ambassador Li'or said. At a time when untold suffering is being caused by internecine and international conflicts in many parts of the world, it seems extraordinary that the ICRC has seen fit to publish a critical statement on this particular issue alone, Ambassador Yitzhaq Li'or concluded.

Ultra-Orthodox Sector Split Between Two Parties

TA2005083392 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 92 p A4

[Report by Shahar Ilan]

[Excerpt] Agudat Yisra'el, Degel Hatora, and Moriya yesterday signed an agreement to run under a joint list called "Yahadut Hatora" [Jews of the Torah]. As a result of this, the ultra- Orthodox sector is running under two large parties: Yahadut Hatora and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. Deputy Minister Avraham Ravitz came out on top in Degel Hatora's internal dispute, and will hold the fifth slot on the joint list.

Here is the lineup of the joint list as stipulated by the agreement: former Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Shapira (Agudat Yisra'el), Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz (Moriya), Deputy Minister Menahem Porush (Agudat Yisra'el), Deputy Minister Shmu'el Halpert (Agudat Yisra'el), Deputy Minister Avraham Ravitz (Degel Hatora), Deputy Minister Avraham Verdiger (Agudat Yisra'el), and Deputy Minister Moshe Gafni (Degel Hatora). [passage omitted]

Final SHAS List Includes Two 'New Faces'

TA2005085892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 92 p A8

[Report by Shahar Ilan]

[Excerpt] Deputy Knesset Speaker Shlomo Dayan, and Knesset Member [MK] Ya'ir Levi have paid the price of the demands for a change in the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Knesset list. Dayan was taken off the list completely, while Levi was pushed down to the unrealistic seventh position.

Communications Minister Refa'el Pinhasi, who had been the main target of criticism, managed to retain his position on the SHAS list, but had to accept his falling from the second to fifth slot.

There are two new faces on the list: Rabbi Moshe Ma'aya, the secretary of the Council of Torah Sages, and Rabbi Shlomo Benizri, a representative of the Sephardic back to religion movement. Benizri belongs to Rabbi Re'uven Elbaz' "Or Hayim" institutions. Rebbis Ma'aya and Benizri are supposed to provide the party with a rabbinical fig leaf to replace Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz, who has left for the "Yahadut Hatora" list.

The final SHAS list is as follows: Interior Ministry Arye Der'i, Rabbi Ma'aya, Deputy Finance Minister Yosef 'Azran, MK Arye Gamli'el, Refa'el Pinhasi, Shlomo Benizri, Ya'ir Levi. [passage omitted]

Officials Meet With Russian Delegation

'Arabiyat Favors Cultural Exchange

JN1905185192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 May 92

[Excerpts] During his meeting with the head and members of the Russian parliamentary delegation, House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat stressed the importance of a cultural exchange between Jordan and Russia and cooperation in all fields. He pointed out the necessity of establishing the new international relations away from hegemony and colonialist control, relations based on civilized and genuine principles represented by the people and not governments.

Dr. 'Arabiyat underscored the adverse results of the Jewish immigration from the republics of the former Soviet Union to the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Arabiyat also commented on the rights of the peoples in the independent Islamic republics of former Soviet Union.

For his part, the head of the Russian parliamentary delegation expressed admiration for the ideas presented by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, during his meeting with the guest delegation. The prince had voiced the need for convening meetings that would include the representatives of various popular sectors, establishments, clergymen, and intellectuals from both sides with the aim of developing broader bilateral cooperation. The leader of the delegation said that they are interested in these ideas and that they will discuss and implement them. He noted that the democratic processes in both Jordan and Russia have taken a giant step in the right direction.

Commenting on the Jewish immigration, the head of the Russian delegation said that this immigration has increased as a result of the difficult economic conditions existing in Russia. We should make every effort to overcome these conditions, he added. [passage omitted]

Supreme Soviet Delegates Depart

JN2105083892 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 May 92 p 32

[Text] Amman—PETRA—The delegation of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet left Amman yesterday following a several-day visit to Jordan. During this visit, the delegation met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent.

The delegation also held talks with Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi, and House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat on issues of mutual interest, and ways to develop bilateral parliamentary cooperation.

The delegation also visited a number of scientific and cultural institutions in the kingdom.

The delegation was seen off by Senators 'Amir Khammash and Khalid al-Tarawinah, as well as the Russian ambassador in Amman.

Reportage on Australian Foreign Minister's Visit

Australia Supports UN Resolution 194

JN2105175692 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Amman, 21 May (PETRA)—Senator Gareth Evans, Australian minister of foreign affairs and trade, has stressed his country's support for the Middle East peace process and hailed the great and constructive role Jordan is playing in this process.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY and Jordan Television upon his arrival in Amman today for a two-day visit as part of a regional tour, Mr. Evans said that his visit emphasizes the depth and warmth of bilateral relations which have existed for a long time.

The Australian minister added that he will discuss with Jordanian officials ways of consolidating and developing bilateral relations in various fields, pointing out that in June his country will host a Jordanian economic delegation representing the private sector with the aim of exploring means of fostering bilateral economic and commercial relations, as well as increasing trade.

Mr. Evans also stressed his country's interest in the region and in resolving its issues, such as arms control and disarmament, especially since Australia has active and effective contributions to make in this field.

Answering a question regarding Australia's position on Security Council [as received] Resolution 194 on the right of [words indistinct] he said: This subject has been presented on several occasions during my tour. Australia, like the United States, has supported Resolution 194 during UN General Assembly debates over the years.

He said: We believe that solving the problem of refugees is possible through their return or through an alternative, such as compensation. This subject should be discussed and tackled within the framework of [words indistinct].

Regarding resuming the dialogue between Australia and the PLO, Senator Evans said: The dialogue with the PLO was going on before the Gulf war, and in light of the positive role the PLO plays in supporting the peace process, we want to resume such dialogue.

On the situation in the occupied territories, the Australian minister said the situation there is painful and emphasizes the importance of reaching acceptable results through the peace process, saying that his country will do all it can to make the peace process successful.

Answering a question on Israel's continuing construction of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, Senator Evans said: We do not believe that the continuation of

settlement building will benefit efforts and measures for building confidence between the countries of the region, but will in fact serve the opposite purpose.

Mr. Evens was received at Queen Alia International Airport by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, the secretary general of Foreign Ministry, the director of the International Relations and Conferences Department, the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Australian ambassador in Amman.

Prince Hasan Meets Evans

JN2105180592 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] At noon today, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at the Royal Hashemite Court Senator Gareth Evans, Australian minister of foreign affairs and trade, and his accompanying delegation.

At the meeting, his highness the crown prince and regent reviewed Jordan's principled and clear positions on the current peace process, the Palestine question, and the Arab-Israeli conflict, all of which are based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and all other resolutions adopted in this regard.

The Australian minister expressed his country's support and understanding for the dimensions of the Jordanian position on the peace process. He also expressed his country's support for the peace efforts currently underway on the basis of the international resolutions adopted on the Palestine question and the Middle East conflict.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir and the Australian ambassador in Amman.

Abu-Jabir Receives Evans

JN2105184892 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir met at the conference hall this evening with Senator Gareth Evans, Australian minister of foreign affairs and trade.

Bilateral relations and their advancement were reviewed at the meeting, as well as the possibility of increasing the volume of trade between Jordan and Australia.

A comprehensive review also was made of developments in the peace process and results of the bilateral and multilateral talks. The two ministers also studied the factors currently obstructing the peace process, ways of advancing the process, and Australia's role in the issues addressed by the multilateral committees.

The meeting was attended by the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, members of the Australian delegation, and the Australian ambassador in Amman. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Dome of the Rock Restoration

Saudis 'Deliberately Ignoring' Jordan

JN2105120892 Amman THE STAR in English 21-27 May 92 p 6

[Editorial: "The Row Over the Dome"]

[Text] The current row over who will restore the Muslim shrines in the Holy City of Jerusalem is turning into an emotional issue for Jordanians and Palestinians alike. Saudi Arabia's insistence on backing a UNESCO project for the restoration of the Dome of the Rock Mosque sounds more like bidding at an antique action than a genuine desire to save Jerusalem's Muslim shrines. The Saudis are deliberately ignoring the Jordanian committee which has been responsible for the project ever since it was founded in the fifties, and have thus politicized the issue and are giving credence to Israeli attempts to wash away Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic character. For this Jordanians and Palestinians are saying to the Saudis: Thanks, but no thanks.

In his letter to UNESCO general secretary this week, acting prime Minister and Minister of Education, Mr. Dhuqan al-Hindawi, made it clear that Jordan will insist that any restoration work of Muslim shrines in Jerusalem be carried out through official Jordanian bodies. He reminded the UN official that the Jerusalem Awqaf Directorate is legally and administratively bound to Jordan and that Jordan has managed to raise the necessary funds needed to execute the restoration work on the Dome of the Rock.

Jordan's concerns go beyond the theatrics of having the honor of saving the Dome before the Muslim Ummah. Jerusalem remains under Israeli occupation and what is at stake is much more than the threatened Dome. Indeed, Jordan has been safeguarding Muslim holy places in the Old City for years in spite of its limited resources. It has never flaunted this, simply because it was and will continue to be its duty to do so. Jordan is more worried about the repercussions of Saudi Arabia's disregard for the Jordanian role, and its legal and historical rights where Jerusalem is concerned. Side-stepping Jordan in favor of UNESCO or any other body can only facilitate Israeli attempts to bury Jerusalem's Arab and Muslim identity and gives strength to those who want to divide or internationalize the city.

Jordanians are angered by the way the Saudis continue to ignore their country as part of a short-sighted policy of "punishing" countries for their position on the Gulf War. That is why both Jordanians and Palestinians rallied around His Majesty the King in his initiative to restore the Dome with Jordanian money.

It is foolish to continue to disregard Jordan's role and to forget so easily what this country, its people and its leadership have done for the cause of Arab unity and Islam during the last decades.

It is also foolish to believe that our relations with Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf countries can be manipulated through financial means. Jordan has, since its birth, been acting as a buffer between a hungry and vicious enemy and a complacent Arab World.

Jordan has dealt with successive waves of Palestinian refugees, accommodated them and provided them with the opportunity to preserve and express their national identity. It has done that by itself. It has been dragged into wars for which it was ill-prepared and for which it paid dearly in terms of geography and politics. Still Jordan never hesitated when it was needed by its brothers, in Oman, the Gulf, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Egypt. It is more foolish to believe that cutting aid or isolating Jordan could change these facts or alter Jordan's commitment to its values.

For a country which claims to be a leader of the Muslim world, Saudi Arabia should act as one. We would have liked wisdom and tolerance to prevail and we would have liked far-sightedness to replace myopic and rash actions. But then this is a different Saudi Arabia from that of the late King Faysal.

PLO To Seek Moroccan Mediation

JN2105130192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The issue of restoring the Dome of the Rock is still drawing reactions now that Saudi Arabia and Jordan have made donations for the restoration of the Dome of the Rock. Saudi Arabia made its donation through UNESCO and Jordan made its donation directly in its capacity as the legitimate party in charge of the holy places in Jerusalem.

In a statement to our radio, an official Palestinian source revealed that the PLO will ask Morocco's King Hassan II to mediate to ease the tension resulting from the financing of the restoration of the Dome of the Rock in his capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee. PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas will meet with King Hassan in Rabat next Sunday for this purpose. Some sources do not rule out that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit Morocco for the same purpose.

The Palestinian official affirmed that the PLO categorically refuses to peddle the restoration of the Dome and its financing through UNESCO and considers Jordan the sole party responsible for the Islamic places in Jerusalem. He noted that the PLO asked Jordan, after the disengagement with the West Bank in 1988, to continue its role as caretaker of the holy places.

On the cable of thanks which 'Arafat sent to the Saudi monarch King Fahd, the Palestinian source said that it does not mean at all that the PLO agrees on UNESCO's intervention. He added that the cable was sent merely to thank the Saudi monarch for his donation.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Disavowal of Resolution 194

JN2005115192 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 May 92 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Washington Regrets Saying a Word of Truth"]

[Text] It seems that the U.S. Administration has regretted having adopted a sound stand and having upheld truth against falsehood even for once.

Just one day after it supported UN Resolution 194 on the Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homes, the U.S. Administration went back on this support. Thus it has disappointed all those who had welcomed this U.S. move, had praised the Bush Administration, and had reaffirmed their willingess to keep betting on the U.S. role for the attainment of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace.

No sooner had Shamir and his cabinet members manifested their fury in a quick and feverish response to statements made by U.S. State Department spokeswoman Tutwiler in support of UN Resolution 194 than the U.S. State Department became frightened and worried about the peace process, so it claims. Therefore, it quickly announced a new viewpoint or stand constituting an exposed retraction of its support for UN Resolution 194.

It is regrettable that this retraction implies an explicit and clear disavowal of the resolutions of international legitimacy and an attempt to circumvent or to ignore them.

It is obvious that the U.S. Administration is haunted by the fear that Israel may go back on its participation in the peace process. Such an action would serve to abort President Bush's peace initiative, foil the efforts made by his secretary of state, James Baker, and cancel the results of his many tours of the region.

It is also regrettable that the U.S. Administration, which pays no attention to the stands of the Arabs participating in the peace process and which does not give any importance to their indignation and condemnation, thinks about things a great deal when it comes to the Israeli stand despite its intransigence and despite the fact that the Israeli stand contains elements that could abort the entire peace process.

We were hoping that the U.S. Administration would not go back on its sound position in support of UN Resolution 194 under the pressure of Israeli indignation, or to disavow it so easily. The U.S. Administration's disavowal of this resolution could provide it with the

opportunity to deny other UN resolutions, such as Resolutions 242 and 338 on which the peace process is based. If this happens, then there will be no peace process nor any hope to achieve peace.

Special Amnesty Issued for Military Deserters

JN2105090192 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 May 92 p 1

[By Khulud al-Ja'uni]

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that a special royal amnesty for conscripts convicted of deserting military service has been issued. They will be pardoned of the entire term of the sentences passed against them.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has instructed a halt to the legal procedures against all deserters—those that have been tried and those that have not yet been tried.

This measure is in harmony with the government's decision to freeze the military and reserve service law.

Ministers React to 'Flagrant' Israeli Attack

NC2105130792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Minister of State Nabih Birri denounced the flagrant Israeli attack on Janta in al-Biqa' after repeated attacks on the south. He said Israel's security claim is flimsy, made to conceal the facts. He added: The party that has a right cannot be called upon to suspend its resistance; the aggressor should be called to end his aggression.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Latif al-Zayn affirmed that the Israeli aggression may extend to every area if the situation remains the same. He said: The Army must defend and support the south and its people. He called on the government to contact the big powers' ambassadors and to lodge a complaint with the UN Security Council. Speaking after meeting the prime minister today, Deputy al-Zayn stressed the need to support the national resistance in the south, following the Israeli mobilizations and provocations along the contact lines [khutut al-tamas, line between the border strip and Lebanon].

Referring to the situation in the south, State Minister Nazih al-Bizri said the government has begun intensive contacts with the big powers, particularly the United States, to stop the attacks. He told our radio: Despite these contacts, we have not received positive answers. The only one we received was the usual call for self-restraint and neutralizing the causes of flare-ups, forgetting that we in the south are resisting an occupying aggressor who attacked our territory and people. Al-Bizri said: We hope the free world and the friendly states will fulfill their promise to help us liberate the land. The bilateral negotiations have produced no progress in five months. This is our fate in the south, al-Bizri said. We will resist any attack with all our might and will continue to stand firm to confront any action.

Villages Struck; Casualties Not Reported

NC2105135592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Zionist military aircraft attacked the village of Qabrikha at 1535 today, hitting As'ad Ni'mah's [not further identified] house. At 1530, they attacked the village of Jibshit, targeting civilian houses, including the house of 'Abd-al-Amir Harb [not further identified]. They also attacked the village of Dirdghayya, firing three rockets at the house of Husayn Shuhur [not further identified]. No casualties have been reported so far.

Buwayz, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Raids

NC2105163292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz summoned U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker this afternoon to discuss the Israeli raids on al-Biqa' and the south. After the meeting, Ambassador Crocker renewed his call on all parties to maintain self-restraint, which only will happen after the state regains control over all the Lebanese territory, particularly the south.

Minister Buwayz said that he has notified the Lebanese UN mission to lodge a complaint with the Security Council. He added that he told the United States that the Israeli aggression is linked to the Israeli elections and to its desire to torpedo the peace conference.

Buwayz noted that the southern resistance must be in harmony with the policy and interest of the Lebanese state. If the resistance does not take current national conditions into consideration, it is working against the interests of the state.

After his meeting with Ambassador Crocker, Minister Buwayz met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi to brief him on his talks.

Inhabitants in South Urged To Leave

NC2105160192 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1530 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Responsible military sources told the inhabitants of southern Lebanon's towns and villages in which there are bases, offices, and hideouts for saboteurs belonging to Hizballah and other terrorist organizations that all these locations are Israeli Army and South Lebanese Army [SLA] military targets.

The sources, therefore, advise the inhabitants to leave their homes or to expel the saboteurs from their towns and villages. If they do not do so, they will face the danger of further and anticipated operations soon.

The sources add that they are giving this advice to protect the peaceful inhabitants who are being used as human shields by the terrorist organizations.

Amal Center Hit

NC2105160892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Israeli military aircraft carried out two raids on Lebanese territory today, attacking a Hizballah camp in Janta valley, in eastern al-Biqa', this morning, leaving five people dead and 10 others wounded. The second raid was carried at 1600 today and was directed at the villages of Jibshit in the al- Nabatiyah district, Dirdghayya in the Tyre district, and Qabrikha in the Bint Jubayl district. The Lebanese Army opened antiaircraft fire at the raiding aircraft.

Amal Movement sources report that an Amal center was hit in Dirdghayya and a number of people were wounded.

According to security reports, a woman and her four children from the Suwayd family were killed in Dirdghayya.

REUTER reports that the Israeli raid this afternoon was carried out by two helicopters.

In addition, Israeli enemy artillery this afternoon shelled Iqlim al-Tuffah. Shells from 155-mm guns fell on the villages of 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju', Jiba', and Jabal Safi at the rate of five per minute.

'Violence' Claims 14 Deaths

NC2105183192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The long day of violence in the south claimed 14 deaths and over 20 injuries. Our correspondent in the south reported that just after 1800 today, Israeli helicopters shelled the villages of Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, and Tulin. No injuries have been reported.

Nasrallah Calls For Resistance

NC2105190392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah said the only response to the Israeli attacks is resistance. He called on Lebanon to abandon the shameful reconciliation talks with Israel.

Complaint Lodged With Security Council

NC2205050292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Lebanon lodged an urgent complaint with the UN Security Council about the Israeli attacks and threats against Lebanon.

South in 'Precarious Situation'

NC2205060192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] The south is in a precarious situation this morning amid the Israeli massing of armored vehicles—including tanks and troop carriers—inside the border strip and along the confrontation line in the central sector. The Israeli buildup has also been observed near Jisr al-Khardali, al-Jurmuq, al-'Ayshiyah, al-Rayhan, and the Kafr Hunah triangle.

Israeli helicopters were seen conducting overflights during the night. The Israeli Army, the South Lebanese Army, the Lebanese Army, and Hizballah meanwhile continue to be on a state of alert.

Hizballah Denies Bases in South

NC2205063292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] The agent militia issued a warning to the southern villages' residents to leave their homes to avoid possible military operations by the Zionist enemy. It claimed that Hizballah fighters are positioned in these villages.

The agents' radio said the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army will regard all Hizballah and other bases as military targets.

The Lahdist agents' command warned the people of Bra'shit against cooperating with the resistance fighters, claiming that it knows where these fighters are positioned and the location of arms depots in the town.

The agent militia warned the southern villages' residents to quickly evacuate to spare themselves imminent military operations, claiming that resistance fighters are present in these villages.

Conversely, a Hizballah information source has denied that Hizballah has any centers or bases in southern Lebanon. Therefore, the source added, the reports that Israeli air raids targeted these hypothetical centers are completely untrue. These raids targeted inhabited civilian houses in a number of southern villages.

In Jibshit, the raids targeted the home of citizen 'Abd-al-Amir Harb; in Qabrikha, they targeted citizen As'ad Ni'mah's home; and in Dirdghayya, they targeted the home of Husayn Shuhur and other houses, inflicting a massacre on the Suwayyid and 'Ulayyan families [not further identified].

Islamic Resistance Ambushes Israelis

NC2205073592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] At 1800 last night, an estimated Israeli force of 30, supported by vehicles, advanced from the al-Ahmadiyah position toward the liberated area. Islamic Resistance heroes ambushed the force, killing or wounding several of its members. The enemy troops were forced to retreat.

Southern Villages Shelled

NC2205074392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reported that the village of Khirbat Silm has come under violent artillery shelling, while enemy aircraft have been flying over the south. The towns of Jarju', Mlita, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, and Jabal Safi also have been violently shelled by 155-mm artillery.

The enemy forces reinforced their positions in the occupied border strip by bringing scores of vehicles to Kawkaba hills. Eight vehicles were seen moving on the Khardali-'Ayshiyah road.

Israeli Fighters Continue Overflights

NC2205081092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes continue to fly over Tyre and Iqlim al-Tuffah following the barbaric air raids yesterday that left 13 people dead and 25 others wounded.

Resistance Fighters, Israelis Clash

NC2205104892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1035 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] According to the national resistance sources in the south, a confrontation between resistance fighters on the one hand and a group of Israeli Army and agent Lahd militia on the other broke out along the Taw'amat Nihah combat line at 1130 today.

The sources said that rockets and machine guns are being used in the fighting, which continues to rage at this moment.

Katyushas Fired at Eastern Sector

NC2205115892 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1131 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Our correspondent reported that several Katyusha rockets fell on the eastern sector of the border area and on Jazzin today and that no damage was caused. Our correspondent added that the South Lebanese Army [SLA] responded to the source of fire using the appropriate weapons.

Al-Amin Meets With Labor Federation Members

NC2105124892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 May 92

[Excerpt) Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin met with General Labor Federation members today, telling them the Labor Ministry will pursue a policy of calm and continuous dialogue with all the trade union leaders and face problems from one position. Al-Amin said the government and the federation must work together to address the economic situation, adding that the government will not make unilateral decisions. [passage omitted]

Workers Federation Says Situation Unchanged

NC2105202092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The National Federation of Workers and Employees Associations said that the political, psychological, and monetary factors that led to the 6 May upheaval still exist. It called on the government to stop the catasrophic downturn in economic and social conditions.

Al-Hirawi Cited on Peace Treaty With Israel

NC2105124392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Addressing the Editors Syndicate Council, President Ilyas al-Hirawi said Lebanon will be the last to sign a peace treaty with Israel, adding that it will not attend the multilateral talks before Resolution 425 is implemented.

Lebanon has taken the necessary positions about the Israeli acts of aggression. Doyen Milhim Karam cited al-Hirawi, saying measures have been taken on the economic problem, which he expects to yield fruit quickly.

Al-Hirawi said rumors and accusations could make those willing to help withhold any assistance. He noted freedom is sacred, and it is inconceivable for it to be harmed or compromised.

Unidentified Caller Cited on German Hostages

NC2205092492 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] In a telephone call to the newspaper AL-HAYAH, a person who claimed to speak on behalf of the front holding both German hostages addressed a message to the hostages' families. The caller said the families should continue to pressure the German Government, so it might quickly find a legal way out for the two Hamadah brothers in order to end this tragedy as soon as possible.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar-Uzbek Forces Clash; Casualties Unknown

BK2205070892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Kabul, May 22 (AFP)—Heavy shelling shook Kabul Friday after overnight fighting between Uzbek militia and fighters of holdout mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar left an unknown number of casualties.

Heavy shelling from the city's suburbs to unspecified locations outside Kabul continued for almost 40 minutes Friday as residents said the activities were confined to the Darul Amand and Karte Naw provinces.

Friday's fighting flared after reported attacks by the militia on Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami forces in the suburbs of Chehalsatoon and Tapa Maranjan, a spokesman said.

"We are in a defensive position, but if necessary we will retaliate," said Hezb-e Eslami spokeman Qutbuddin Hilal in Kabul.

He said the overnight fighting "lasted two to three hours," but added that he had no ready reports of casualties from either side.

The fresh fighting between the two rival groups followed the announcement of a five-point peace accord by a mojahedin council providing for a withdrawal of all opposing forces from Kabul.

The commission headed by Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani also announced a permanent end to the fighting and ordered withdrawing fighters to deposit their heavy guns and tanks with the new Islamic government in Kabul.

"We spoke to Haqqani and we are waiting," the Hezb spokesman said.

Hekmatyar insists on the withdrawal of the lawless militiamen as a pre-condition to his joining the three-week-old interim administration.

The spokesman said the Uzbek militia led by former general 'Abdorrashid Dostam wanted to "sabotage" the accord as it also seeks the withdrawal of such "mercenary" groups.

Meanwhile, defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, ap arch-rival of Hekmatyar, told a Pakistani delegation Thursday night that he was ready to withdraw all forces from Kabul provided he was assured the city would not be attacked in the future.

The Hezb-e Eslami rebels retaliated with a rocket attack on the city of 1.5 million people, residents said, adding that at least one surface missile landed.

Casualties from the rocket attack were not known, and details of the counter-attack were not immediately known.

The Hezb forces are strung out in the city's south, with their leader headquartered at a radar base 30 kilometers (18 miles) outside Kabul.

The Hezb had already reported "militia attacks" Wednesday and Thursday around the Afghan capital. In a communique received in Pakistan, Hekmatyar's party had accused Dostam's militia of "launching heavy artillery and ground attacks" on its positions Thursday.

According to the text carried overnight by the Hezb-controlled Afghan News Agency (ANA) in Peshawar, a "fierce battle" continued for more than four hours Thursday in the Kabul region.

"In rebutting the militia offensives, mojahedin shelled the Bala Hisar fort where a fire erupted," the communique said.

"A number of residential houses were demolished in Chalesatoon, Bine Hisar and other adjoining areas due to the heavy missile attack of militia from the Bala Hisar fort and Tapa Maran Jan" area, it said.

Hezb claimed that "the militia forces were highly irritated by the announcement of Maulvi Jalaluddin Haqqani that they (the militia) should pull out of Kabul, leaving behind the heavy weapons and handing over security of the city to the commanders and mojahedin of Kabul province."

"It is due to their sheer frustration that they launched attacks on Hezb positions," it said.

According to the Hezb, another militia, under Ismaili General Mansoor Nadeiri, said they would "not abide by the truce agreement" between Hekmatyar and Mas'ud.

On Wednesday also, the ANA had said that Hezb had repulsed an attack the same day southeast of Bala Hisar. It claimed that five "gleemjam militia" were killed and eight were injured, while Hezb had two killed and three injured in its ranks.

Gleemjam is a colloquial reference to the Dostam militia.

"The militia was forced to retreat to Bala Hisar fort," ANA had said.

Mojaddedi Departs for Mazar-e Sharif, Qandahar

LD2105164192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, chairman of the Jihadi Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, left Kabul today for Mazar-e Sharif, the provincial capital of Balkh Province, for a pilgrimage to the shrine of Hazrat-e 'Ali and then to the sacred Kherqa [cloak] of Hazrat-e Mohammad, peace be upon him, in Qandahar.

During his visit to Balkh and Qandahar Provinces, esteemed Sebghatollah Mojaddedi will hold talks with

the mojahedin and people of these provinces. During his departure, esteemed Mojaddedi was seen off by esteemed Sayyed Solayman Gaylani, esteemed 'Abdol Qayum, Dr. 'Abdol Rahman, and a number of jihad commanders at Kabul international airport.

Pakistani Tribal Delegation Meets Mas'ud

BK2205102092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] The Afghan defense minister, Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, has said that the militia will be withdrawn from Kabul after ensuring full security of the area. He was talking to a tribal jerga [delegation] from Pakistan which called on him in Kabul last night. He said that the militia in Kabul were under complete control and command of the mojahedin government as they had surrendered to the mojahedin leadership. He told the jerga that the mojahedin leaders have been able to resolve some military matters and he would be meeting Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar to hold negotiations with him on resolving political matters in the spirit of Islamic brotherhood. The jerga assured the defense minister that they would continue to support the cause of the people of Afghanistan and will extend all possible assistance in the reconstruction of the areas destroyed during the foreign aggression.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Returns From Nonaligned Meeting

BK1905174292 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman said the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] will continue to play a positive role despite the end of the cold war. Talking to newsmen in Dhaka Monday [18 May] on return from the ministerial meeting of the NAM at Bali, he said it was an important forum for reappraisal of international situation. Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said the NAM meeting reviewed the far-reaching changes that had brought to end the East-West tension, the cold war, and the ideological rivalries. He described the meeting as very important as it focused on the latest developments in the Middle East and South Africa. The forum also deliberated on development and trade, South-South cooperation, environment and sustainable development, and human rights [word indistinct]. Bangladesh was unanimously elected vice chairman of the meeting.

Breakaway Yugoslav Republics Accorded Recognition

BK1905155492 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Bangladesh has decided to accord immediate recognition to three newly independent European states of Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Hercegovina, it was officially announced in Dhaka today. A Foreign Ministry press release says the recognition will pave the way for establishment of friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation between Bangladesh and these states.

The three republics are breakaways from the Federation of Yugoslavia, which had emerged in 1945 following the Second World War.

Government To Recognize Georgia

BK2005185592 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Bangladesh has decided to recognize Georgia. Earlier, Bangladesh had accorded recognition to all other states of the former Soviet Union.

New Radio Transmitter Commissioned at Savar

BK2105165392 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The newly installed 100-megawatt [as heard] medium wave transmitter of Radio Bangladesh has been commissioned at Savar. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister, Begum Zia, said her government is contemplating introduction of a mass communication policy suiting a progressive democratic society. The new transmitter covering a radius of about 325 km replaces the old one installed in 1963. The project costing over 15 crore taka has been implemented under a Japanese grant. Underlining the importance of people's involvement in the mass media programs, Begum Zia said in a democratic system mass media or public relations are not one-way, but two-way traffic. Explaining the role of Radio Bangladesh in the national life, the prime minister said under the present socioeconomic reality, radio is the most effective mass medium. She said Radio Bangladesh has a glorious tradition and has been acting as a link between the government and the people.

The prime minister said we have now initiated a new struggle against poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and the movement for increasing production in the fields and factories. She called upon all the members of Radio Bangladesh to work with more sense of responsibility to help solve the problems (?through) poverty alleviation, population control, health care, agricultural development, and industrialization which have been identified as priority sectors. The prime minister said the government will procure six more mobile transmitting centers with a view to remaining closer to the people during calamities. Begum Zia also thanked the Government of Japan for giving assistance in installing the transmitter. Presided over by Information Minister Najmul Huda, the function was also addressed by Information Secretary Nuruddin Al-Masud, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Toshio Saiki, and Director General of Radio Bangladesh M.N. Mustafa. Local MP Niamatullah Qabus was also present.

India

Commentary Urges Stronger Delhi-U.S. Ties

BK2105122992 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 21 May 92

[Journalist D.S. Raizada commentary: "Need to Cement Indo-U.S. Relations"]

[Text] The time has come when both India and the United States must break from the past and look for not only cementing but also growing mutual ties. Both the countries need each other more today than ever before. The world may for a short while seem unipolar, but it will never remain so. New forces are bound to emerge sooner than expected, making both the countries realize the need for still closer relationship. Washington may be very keen to see its industrial wheels running faster and taking the country out of recession. But it must also see that India's economic development does not lag behind. Mutuality is the best base of relationship and equality keeps it running. There are a number of irritants in Indo-U.S. relationship which have come into open and need sober looks.

Washington created controversy about India's plans to sell an experimental nuclear reactor to Iran, while the U.S. had itself sold such reactors to many countries. India was forced to scale down its efforts in this direction. Similarly, on the question of exporting rice to Cuba, the Bush administration created hue and cry and stymied Indian efforts to import wheat from the U.S. even while the farmers lobby there was keen. Again, even after months of Indian efforts to clarify its position on intellectual property rights, the U.S. administration imposed retaliatory sanctions under Special 301 provision withdrawing Generalized System of Preferences benefits accorded to Indian pharmaceutical products. The U.S. also tried to spread misinformation, that too willfully, that India possesses chemical weapons. Robert Gates, the CIA chief, himself stated this during the course of a Senate committee hearing. About two weeks ago when the Bush administration announced sanctions against the Indian Space Research Organization [ISRO] under the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR], it was merely the latest in the series of disagreements that have marked Indo-U.S. relations in the past few months.

The sanctions against ISRO have threatened to jeopardize the country's geostationary satellite launch vehicle program. Knowing fully well that Indian missile program is meant for peaceful purposes, opinions are being created in the United States that aid to India should be linked to missile program. In fact, some U.S. officials had even a fortnight ago said that they had nothing against India and the whole exercise was aimed at sending a message across to certain members of the Commonwealth of Independent States which have nuclear capabilities. The real cause is that Washington could not push the same technology to India at about three to four times the cost Russia is charging.

There are host of other issues between the two countries, including the United States dragging its feet on allowing the Asian Development Bank to provide India with soft loans. So far, India has rightly taken extremely soft line toward the U.S. moves, refusing to take a confrontationist stand. With liberalization, India needs both investment and market access abroad. Thirty-five Indian export teams are going abroad for this purpose. India also needs continuous support of international financial institutions like the World Bank and IMF to step up its economic reforms. To date, the United States has been, of course, helpful. The long-term thinking would show that the United States needs India more than any other country in the region. With the Islamic bloc through Silk Route taking a definite shape in Asia, India could act as a buffer state for the U.S. India should also be a strategic partner for the United States in the Indian Ocean. The increasing defense ties between the two countries is an indication on these lines.

The United States should also not forget that with liberalization of the Indian economy there are a lot of investment potential for U.S. companies, and the bad diplomacy can pass on this opportunity to other European, Japanese and German companies who are also eagerly looking for expansion of economic relations. It is true that with the exchange of visits of senior-level politicians between India and China, there are chances of better economic cooperation between the two countries. Still, India could act as a countervailing force to China. The mounting American pressure may keep [as heard] India to keep quiet for economic reasons. But India may reassert with vigor sooner than expected. The United States should better remember that when Washington asked for economic sanctions against China for selling missile technology to Pakistan it did not relent under pressure. Instead, it clearly stated that lifting of sanctions was the only way it could advise to MTCR. [sentence as heard]

Official Reaction to U.S. Space Ban Viewed

BK1505063992

[Editorial Report] While there has been a strong adverse public reaction in India to the two-year ban imposed by the United States on trade and the transfer of technology to the ISRO and the Russian firm Glavkosmos after New Delhi refused to drop plans to import Russian technology—Washington believes that the deal violates the nonproliferation treaty known as the Missile Technology Control Regime—Indian official reaction has been rather mild and even muted to a certain extent, contrary to past official reaction in similar cases, which has been full of strong rhetoric against any such action.

Responding to "unanimous condemnation" of the U.S. sanctions by the members of parliament, who wanted New Delhi to retaliate by cancelling the planned joint naval exercises in the Indian Ocean, Minister of State for Personnel Margaret Alva, while expressing concern, told the parliament on 12 May that "India's technology is

capable of meeting the challenge" and "New Delhi is determined to protect the freedom of choice" for technology, reports Delhi All India Radio. All India Radio also reports that Defense Minister Sharad Pawar, although not naming the United States, defended the decision to hold joint naval exercises, saying "such exercises will go a long way in creating better understanding and inter-navy cooperation."

A government official spokesman's 12 May comments on the issue could be interpreted as subdued. While pointing out Indian efforts to develop "indigenous capabilities," the spokesman clarified that "the decision certainly has generated misunderstanding in parliament, and elsewhere, about U.S. policy perceptions, and to that extent it is an avoidable irritant in our bilateral relationship with USA" reports Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English.

Assessing the impact of U.S. sanctions on the Indian space program, ISRO chief U.R. Rao admitted that "certainly, it would affect us to some extent because we do import a number of components [from the U.S.], particularly space qualified components." He said: "It will have an affect of delaying our program a little bit, and we may have to spend more money," noting that efforts to produce such components indigenously had not been made as to do so had been considered economically unviable. He, however, promised continued service in the fields of communications, TV broadcasts, management of natural resources, and meteorology. This was reported by Delhi Doordarshan TV Network in English.

There has been no reaction from Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, who also heads the External Affairs Ministry, since the sanctions were announced on 11 May. However, at a Congress-I Party meeting on 8 May, without referring to the U.S. objection to the rocket engine deal, Rao said "India cannot be pressurized or its arm twisted," adding that "India is, however, not prepared to isolate itself" reports Delhi Doordarshan TV Network in English. An All India Radio commentary, also broadcast before the U.S. announcement, while noting that the India-Russia deal has no military aspect, said that "the main reason behind the American objection is that it [the U.S.] does not want the element of competition in this field" and "the USA also does not want India to join the exclusive club of nations that have the capacity to place satellites in geostationary orbit."

Indian opposition parties have reacted to the U.S. decision with sharp criticism. According to All India Radio, in a statement the Bharatiya Janata Party said that "by opposing an open agreement, Washington is trying to put undue pressure on New Delhi." All India Radio also reports that in a press statement, the Politburo of the Communist Party of India-Marxist urged the government to "declare unambiguously India's determination to stick to the agreement between New Delhi and Moscow." Janata Dal spokesman Harikishore Singh told newsmen that in retaliation, India should cancel joint naval exercises with the United States.

Pawar Urges Pakistani Army Chief To Visit

BK2005173792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has asked the Army chief to invite his Pakistani counterpart to this country to show him that our forces are truly defensive. Addressing defense personnel at various places in the western region during the last few days, Mr. Pawar said Pakistan is not letting the country to reduce its defense budget. He said economy in defense expenditure without compromising defense preparedness or capability is necessary in view of the problems faced by the country.

Agreement Reached on Ties With Slovenia

BK2005181592 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] India and Slovenia have agreed to strengthen their relations in all fields. The foreign minister of Slovenia, Mr. Dimitriy Rupel, told a news conference in New Delhi today that his country is interested in importing Maruti cars and textiles and it can export chemicals and machinery to India. He said that India can take advantage of his country's cargo ports to export goods to West Europe.

Replying to questions, Dr. Rupel said there is no comparison between his people's fight against the communist regime and the happenings in Punjab and Kashmir. He said in this area, India does not need anybody's advice. Dr. Rupel said though Slovenia's primary interests lie in Europe, it wants to be in the Nonaligned Movement as it is a driving force in international politics.

During his stay in New Delhi, Dr. Rupel had talks with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. He also met the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, and the minister of state for industry, Mr. P.J. Kurien.

Rohini Satellite Functioning 'Very Well'

BK2105152892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The Rohini satellite successfully launched into orbit by ASLV [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle] D-3 yesterday is functioning very well. According to an ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] release in Bangalore today, the satellite has completed 25 orbits with an orbiting period of 91 minutes. The satellite is being continuously monitored at the spacecraft centers in Bangalore, Lucknow, Sriharikota, and Mauritius.

Andhra Pradesh Bans Maoist Extremist Group

BK2105173292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh Government has banned the Naxalite [Maoist] People's War group in the state. Announcing this decision at a meeting organized at Visakhapatnam today to commemorate the first death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, the state chief minister, Mr. N. Janardhan Reddy, said the government will not allow extremist activities in the state.

Charges Filed in Gandhi Murder Case Detailed

BK2005173392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] chief, Prabhakaran, and the organization's intelligence wing chief, Pottuamman, are among those cited as accused in the charge sheet filed today in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case by the Special Investigation Team [SIT]. The 49-page charge sheet, with annexures running into about 400 pages, was filed before the designated court in Madras. The charge sheet cites organizational motive as the prime cause for the murder of Rajiv Gandhi. It felt the conspiracy to assassinate Rajiv Gandhi was hatched as early as July 87 when Prabhakaran and his colleagues visited New Delhi in connection with the Indo-Sri Lankan accord. The feeling that they had been let down by India is stated to be another cause for the murder. Two other prime factors of the assassination listed in the charge sheet are the suicide of 12 LTTE men at Palali in Jaffna when the Sri Lankan Army attempted to airlift them to Colombo and the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] action in Jaffna. According to a statement issued by the Special Investigation Team in Madras today, 41 persons are listed as accused of which 15 are Indians. Twenty-six of the 41 are now in custody for trial. The SIT statement further disclosed that the LTTE had trained, armed, and financed certain Indian youths to form a Tamil National Retrieval Force to unleash terror in strategic locations of Tamil Nadu under directions from Jaffna. But their nefarious activities were nipped in the bud by the timely seizure of arms and ammunition by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation]

Iran

Adviser Praises 'Encouraging' U.S. Measures

PM2005142292 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 17 May 92 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Presidential Adviser Reveals to SAWT AL-KUWAYT: Messages Exchanged With Scowcroft; Washington Welcomed Election Results"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—An adviser to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani revealed to SAWT AL-KUWAYT yesterday that the United States welcomed the results of the Iranian elections in messages exchanged recently between one of the Iranian president's advisers and Brent Scowcroft, the U.S. President's national security adviser.

The Iranian president's adviser said that these messages were preceded by secret talks conducted by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi—who is currently mediating between the Armenians and Azerbaijanis in their conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh area—and former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who was visiting Karabakh on a mission entrusted to him by the UN secretary general. He added that as a result of these talks, Vance conveyed to the U.S. President some of the Iranian proposals concerning the ways that Tehran considers suitable for normalizing relations with Washington. The United States responded positively to the Iranian proposals through Germany, which is mediating confidentially.

The adviser said that the United States recently took encouraging steps that reflect Washington's desire to deal with the real Iranian situation from a new angle.

These steps are represented by lifting the ban on exports of U.S. goods, except military goods, to Iran; payment to Iran of $170 million for military equipment for which Iran concluded a deal during the shah's era but on which a ban was later imposed by Washington; permission for the British-French companies jointly manufacturing the "Air Bus" passenger plane, which is equipped with U.S. engines, to sell three to Iran; releasing six Iranians arrested in Ecuador on suspicion of involvement in the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, based on information that Ecuador received from the CIA; and then Washington's condemnation of recent Israeli raids on Hizballah positions in southern Lebanon.

Ministers Praise Saudi Assistance With Hajj

President Receives Letter from Fahd

LD2005220592 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA—Saudi King Fahd bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz's written message to President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was submitted to the Foreign Ministry here Tuesday.

The message was handed to Mustafa Fumani-Ha'eri, adviser to the foreign minister, by Saudi Ambassador to Iran 'Abd-al-Latif al-Maymani.

Fumani-Haeri, who also heads the Persian Gulf department at the Foreign Ministry, referring to this year's Hajj pilgrimage, expressed hope that the solemn duty would be performed as peacefully and appropriately as last year. He thanked the Saudi Government for providing facilities for Iranian pilgrims.

Matters of mutual interest and factors that both countries think can help expand Tehran-Riyadh ties and cooperation were discussed by the two men.

The Iranian official said that joint cooperation between the two countries could greatly influence regional affairs and called for an immediate holding of the joint economic comission in order to deepen bilateral relations.

Saudi 'Understanding' Cited

LD2105163192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Reyshahri—representative of the supreme jurisconsult [vali-ye faqih] and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims to the House of God [Ka'ba]—went to Jeddah this afternoon. He was seen off by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi Golpayegani, head of the leader of the revolution's office, and by the Saudi Arabian ambassador in Tehran. Before leaving for Jeddah, he spoke to our correspondent about the hajj this year, saying:

[Begin Reyshahri recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Because of the special right that the exalted imam [Khomeyni] has over hajj and the pilgrims of the sanctified house of God, it has been planned with the agreement of the exalted leadership, that, God willing, we will hold a memorial service in honorable Medina for the beloved imam. It is intended, God willing, that this service and plan be repeated every year. Considering the understanding that, thanks be to God, exists, I predict that, God willing, this year we can maintain the objectives of the Abrahamite hajj more gloriously and better than last year.

In the current year, God willing, we are ready for 120,000 pilgrims to participate in the service, which has been planned for. As I pointed out, with the existing understanding and the cooperation extended by the Saudi Arabian Government, thanks be to God, matters are progressing better than last year. The pilgrims' housing has, thank God, been secured, and we don't feel that any problems exist at the moment. [end recording]

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Azerbaijan Situation

LD2105224892 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1712 GMT 21 May 92

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi by unidentified reporter at the IRIB studio—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr. Va'ezi, thank you for coming on our program. My first question is what factors led to the coming to power of the People's Front [Jebhe-ye Khalq] in Azerbaijan?

[Va'ezi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear viewers. Developments in Azerbaijan have evolved very rapidly during the past few months. The problems that the government of the recently established Republic of Azerbaijan has faced since its independence include economic and political as well as other problems that also confront all other former Soviet republics. On top of these problems, Azerbaijan faces the problem of military clashes with the opposition forces over the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh and the conflicts it has with the Armenian Government. These problems have led to a very fast moving chain of events. They have also influenced Azerbaijan's political developments.

There are two rival political powers in Azerbaijan. They have unfortunately taken their disputes to the fronts [as heard]. One rival power is the ruling party or the ruling group that used to be the government that ruled up until a few days ago; another is the People's Front. [passage omitted]

Both sides are after social power. They have tried to overcome each other. Both want to take control of power, which led to the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh and which should have been on top of the agenda, being forgotten and becoming a pawn that both sides clutched in order to gain power.

It was on this basis that after the fall of Shusha—which fell very easily and showed no resistance against the Armenian forces—both side's officials—the Ministry of Defense was held by the People's Front and the Presidency was held by the opposing front, which was the nongoverning front—began to accuse each other of an act of treason against Nagorno-Karabakh.

It was on this basis that the Majles approved Mr. Mutalibov coming to power. It announced its previous acceptance of the resignation null and void. The day after that, the People's Front called on the people to take to the streets, which resulted in the taking of the presidential palace, the radio and television and other centers, the airport, and more. Immediately afterward, the People's Front came to power.

Currently the status quo amounts to the People's Front not wanting the situation to be viewed as though it has taken control of power by force. Their proposal is that they want to come to power through elections. Their proposed president is Mr. Aliyev, who is the leader of the People's Front. They have concentrated all their efforts in order for the leader of the People's Front to become president through elections to take place in four to five weeks. They do not want elections to be postponed, which is the way they want to hold power.

[Reporter] Thank you. Mr. Va'ezi, do you think that the 50-member council will be successful in holding elections?

[Va'ezi] The 50-member council is a combination of both factions. Of the parliamentary members, 25 are from the People's Front; the other 25 are conservative members of the government that was in power before. What has been done is that after yesterday's developments, parliament gave all its authority to the 50-member council. The president of the council is the former parliamentary foreign policy committee leader and the deputy leader of the People's Front. The council has been given full authority so that it can calm the situation and hold elections at the appropriate time.

Holding elections—from one viewpoint—is to benefit Azerbaijan, for which the reason is clear. A country that is beset by so many problems that exist in Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia—political, economic, and war—requires a cohesive system and a government so that it can be saved from this situation. On the other hand, there are countries that have an influence in Azearbai an and are not interested in the election being held on time or having the election results counter their wishes. They have enough influence to make an effort.

There is another factor: The people are tired of the situation that has appeared. The officials are constantly being changed, and there is no intermediate policy for work. If we put all this together with the dangers threatening Azerbaijan, it seems that it is wise that elections be held as soon as possible, within three to five weeks. The existing atmosphere in Azerbaijan after the developments and the fact that power is in the hands of one faction predicts that elections will be held.

[Reporter] You spoke about the effects of the elections within Azerbaijan. What effects will it have on other regional states?
[Va'ezi] It depends on the policy the People's Front adopts. When it did not have any power and was acting as a political party, the Peoples's Front adopted special positions in the region. It had a special view on Turkey and another view on Russia and in relation to other regional states. Naturally, when a faction assumes power it must administer the country. If it does not have a wise and logical policy, it will definitely be faced with problems for a short period and suffer a setback. Therefore it is necessary that they review their policy regarding regional states, especially neighbors. In contacts I had with the high-ranking officials of the People's Front during my travels to Baku, I have become optimistic that there will be serious events that will cause the People's Front's officials to be realistic. It is hoped that if they come to power, they will adopt a wise policy; otherwise they will encounter difficulties.

[Reporter] Was the 50-member council set up for this juncture, for the elections, or did it exist before?
[Va'ezi] This council existed before. When differences between the People's Front and the government intensified, the council was set up beside the parliament. The parliaments of Azerbaijan and many world states are quite different from that in the Islamic Republic of Iran. They hold several annual sessions. Considering that they had a lot of problems and their differences were rife, when the differences increased, 50 deputies from within the parliament—25 from the People's Front and 25 from the government or from supporters of the government—were chosen to address the problems. At the moment the same thing is continuing with one difference, which is that the 50-member council's president is authorized to chose someone from the former parliament in case a problem arises or someone wants to resign.

[Reporter] Thank you. [passage omitted] Mr. Va'ezi, some people believe that the recent developments in Azerbaijan will deepen the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. What is your assessment of the situation?
[Va'ezi] The trends in Nagorno-Karabakh—witnessed by the fall of Shusha and Lachin and the opening of a corridor between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia—are serious developments. On the other hand, following the developments in Baku and the political changes that have taken place, the possibility exists that the situation will become more complicated.

Fanning the flames of war does not benefit Azerbaijan or Armenia, or other countries of the Caucasus and the region. Those countries have enough problems already. If the Nagorno-Karabakh problem turns into an all-out war between both countries, it will cause irreparable damage to them. It is the duty of the countries of the region to use all the resources at their disposal to find a peaceful solution.

We believe that the problem that exists in Nagorno-Karabakh—and all the problems that exist between Armenia and Azerbaijan—does not have a military solution. Both countries are small in terms of population, resources, and military stamina. Other countries exist that assist them, including in terms of military assistance. Some other countries provoke them. There may even be some countries that are not happy with the disintegration of the former Soviet Union; we can even put Russia itself and others in this category. They may prefer it if this situation continues so that they can reach some of their objectives in the midst of insecurity and difficulty.

During the time when we were negotiating in the region, we could assess the situation and work on the problems. It was obvious that there were countries whose duty was to create problems and provoke one side against the other. They armed both sides, passed intelligence to both sides, and provoked them so that the flames of war would intensify. Our duty, and the duty of other countries who are concerned about this region.... [changes thought] Calm and stability are most important in this region, not just for ourselves but for our neighbors, for the people of Azerbaijan, who are not separate from us. The common culture and history between us and the Azerbaijanis means that we cannot remain indifferent to Azerbaijan being ruined through war and the destruction of its people in this situation. Therefore, all our efforts, whether internally or through our influence in Armenia and Azerbaijan, must be used in order to stop the war from spreading. We have openly announced our position that we will not accept any change in borders under any conditions. On the other hand, we are not indifferent to force being used by one against another, or Armenia putting pressure on Nakhichevan. We will use all our influence to propagate a peaceful solution.

It is not important that Iran is the mediator. The important issue is that both sides believe that a military solution is not correct. The only thing that can solve the problem is political negotiation and a peaceful solution through any path that both sides accept.

[Reporter] As you pointed out as the representative of the Foreign Ministry, you had many provocations in the Central Asia region, especially in both young countries of Armenia and Azerbaijan. We have taken essential steps in order to solve the problems between Armenia and Azerbaijan. But it seems that during the current stage, we are witnessing less activity from the Iranian Foreign Ministry in this affair. What is the reason for this?
[Va'ezi] The day we started mediation followed requests from high-ranking officials of both countries. We carried out our work on this basis. Now that certain incidents have occurred that we have already discussed—political developments in Baku and the military moves in Nagorno-Karabakh and the periphery of Nagorno-Karabakh on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan—the trend has changed in the short term.

These are both factors: first, the political factor in Baku, and second, the military developments on the border. We are waiting for the situation to calm down in Azerbaijan, a political calm so that we have someone to address. As mediators, we have to have specific parties to address. Naturally, once the situation becomes calm, the parties.... [changes thought] In Armenia it is clear politically who those parties are. When the situation becomes clear in Azerbaijan, and when the developments that have occurred since the Tehran session when we announced that it is necessary for the situation to return to its previous state, when these steps are taken politically, and if both parties are interested, we will continue with the rest of our moves to direct the situation toward a peaceful solution to the crisis. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] God willing. I once again thank you for coming on our program.
[Va'ezi] Thank you.

Government To Seek Lower OPEC Output Ceiling

LD2005184892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] On the eve of the OPEC session, our country's oil minister announced at a news conference today: At the OPEC session—to be held in Vienna tomorrow to review market conditions, prices, and to determine the ceiling price of oil for the next three months—the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] will insist on $21 per barrel of oil and on regulating the members' output to achieve that price.

Referring to the fact that some OPEC members are asking for an increase in their quota, he said: If Iraq brings her output into the market, those countries that were producing instead of her [Iraq] should reduce their output and return Iraq's quota. About the plan by European countries to tax oil by-products, Mr. Aqazadeh said: That decision is not definite yet, and we are totally opposed to it. It would not be in the interests of producers and consumers.

About the price of Iran's oil on international markets, he said: Iran's light [crude] oil has been sold for $18 and her heavy oil for $17 in recent months. The average price of Iranian oil is about $17.5 per barrel.

He added: The present OPEC output roof is 23 million barrels per day [bpd], which should be lowered to bring about a balance between supply and demand. He added: The IRI is opposed to Saudi Arabia's proposal to raise the output roof from 23 to 24 bpd.

The oil minister also referred to the method of distributing oil by-products inside the country. He said: The level of distribution of oil by-products is 140 million liters per day. He called on the public to take steps to hoard paraffin, while saving on its use during summer. He described the production of oil by-products as good. He said: The Esfahan oil [Rowghan; may refer to engine oil] refinery is in its test operation stage. When it is commissioned, there will be a foreign currency saving of $100 million.

Velayati Urges Reassessment of Nonaligned Tenets

LD2005225592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] After participating in the Nonaligned Movement ministers' session in Bali, Indonesia, Foreign Minister Velayati returned to Tehran this afternoon. At Mehrabad Airport he told our correspondent the following about the session: At the three-day session, the Nonaligned Movement experts and foreign ministers reviewed the arrangements for the Jakarta summit.

Mr. Velayati stressed the necessity for reevaluating the principles of the Nonaligned Movement in connection with the current developments in the world. He pointed out: The 10th conference of Nonaligned Movement heads of state will be held in Jakarta. We hope that following consultations among the members we will see some developments in the movement.

About his trip to Bangladesh, he said: The trip was at the formal invitation of the foreign minister of that country. During the trip, I had meetings with the Bangladesh president, prime minister, and foreign minister. Talks were held about mutual ties and expanding cooperation.

He said: The tragedy of the 200,000 Miyanmari [Burmese] Muslims made homeless is one of the problems of the world. Their situation was closely monitored during the trip. We hope that as a result of the agreement between the foreign ministers of Bangladesh and Myanmar, they will return to their homes with honor and that Myanmar will fulfill its obligations.

Referring to his trip to India, he said: During the two-day official visit I met and held talks with the Indian prime minister and foreign minister. We discussed the Nonaligned Movement. It was agreed that the Indian foreign minister will come to Iran. He added: During the trip,

the Indian prime minister gave assurances that Indian Muslims will be treated the same as followers of other religions and that there will be no favoritism.

Future of Nonaligned Movement Viewed

LD2005082392 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 19 May 92

[Mahmud Mohammadi commentary: "Nonaligned Movement: Towards gaining a new identity"]

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA—The meeting of 72 foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] in Bali, Indonesia May 12-15, which was also attended by 25 representatives from guest countries and 10 observers, offered a better prospect for the future of the Nonaligned Movement.

The ruling atmosphere over the ministerial meeting which concluded its sessions last Friday was significantly different from previous meetings of the NAM.

The meeting in Bali marked a change in the ruling atmosphere over the conference which used to be rather hazy and gloomy in the past and in Accra which suffered from multiplicity of outlooks among member states and which even cast doubt on the need for the continued life of the Nonaligned Movement.

During the past ministerial meeting, certain members of the NAM argued that the Movement was nearing the end of its life and proposed its dissolution or merger with the Group-77. But the same people now think differently and have concluded that NAM should continue to exist to better reasons than before.

The Iranian delegation at the meeting in Bali offered worthier topics to listen to because it maintained that although the Movement cannot be the sole architect of the future world, the architectural designing of the new world would not be possible without the will of the Movement.

The proposition that the Movement should play a more important international role and at the same time eschew from abstract encounter with international problems eventually found its way in the minds of the NAM ministers. The proposition requires that NAM make an effort for broadening economic cooperation with other political blocs.

Another point of importance at Bali meeting which was discussed at the methodology conference was the possible role of the NAM in the new international structure which augured well of an active approach rather that a mere reaction to international developments.

The position of the Movement with respect to Karabakh and Afghanistan was in fact some sort of support for the Tehran declaration earlier this month and of Iran's mediatory role for solving the disputes between Azerbaijan and Armenia. It also recognized the material and spiritual support of Iran for the liberative struggles of the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

The crisis in Yugoslavia too was among the topics discussed at the Bali meeting. The topic actually took the bulk of the discussion hours of the NAM ministers.

On that topic, Iran unequivocally voiced its protests against brutality and application of force and encounters between the warring groups which has entailed substantial damage and much suffering to the people and especially to the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and also the ruining of Islamic buildings.

In his message to the general director of UNESCO, Iran's foreign minister voiced his concern over the situation calling on him to do everything possible in order to prevent the bloodshed in that part of the world.

The Iranian delegation said at the NAM meeting in Bali that Iran would not sit back quiet in respect of what is happening in that part of the world.

The representative from Yugoslavia said that his government had accepted the factual realities in Yugoslavia and that it agrees to the decision of the newly independent nations for membership at the international organizations. He said he supports the application of those republics for membership at the Nonaligned Movement.

Among the structural topics which touches also on the statutory condition of the NAM is that of creating a mechanism for promoting the goals of the movement in the future international relations which was seriously taken up by the methodology committee.

The proposition which started in Accra and which found its way into the NAM meeting in Bali was how to create a research group in order to bring closer together the views and outlooks of all member states in their foreign relations and on how they can better exploit their existing potentials which was among Iran's proposals at Larnaca.

On the basis of that suggestion and also on the basis of the need for creating a follow-up mechanism for bureaucratic affairs of the NAM in the form of a secretariat, obviously the Nonaligned Movement will do better at the international scene and for reaching a common position on certain political developments in the world.

Under the circumstances, the followup of the decision of the Nonaligned Movement and an enquiry into the world affairs has been entrusted to the NAM's bureau in New York because the permanent members of the Nonaligned Movement in New York are better able to undertake that commitment.

In sum we can conclude from the Bali meet that unlike the Accra meet which had been somewhat shocked at the end of the cold war, and of the collapse of communism, and the ruin of the bipolar political system, does not at all see itself defenceless in coping with the new world order. Further than that, the Nonaligned Movement now

thinks of itself as an entity as big as two-thirds of the entirety of the United Nations member states with a responsibility to safeguard group security, and a responsibility to ensure that political, economic and developmental cooperation will substitute the tense era of the cold war.

The Nonaligned Movement now considers itself as being a power in the task of reshaping the new world order, and to that end it will go as far as making every necessary change in the structure of the United Nations and in the mechanism of its functions.

On that basis, the foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement in Bali expressed hope that in their tenth meeting in Jakarta this September they will make more serious efforts for strengthening the movement and making it capable of playing an important role in the casting of the foundations of a new world order, as well as join its member states in a tighter solidarity with each other within a united whole so that it will plan a more important role in shaping future international relations.

Government Agrees to Afghan ECO Membership

LD2005215992 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has agreed to Afghanistan's membership in the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced today. He said membership in ECO requires a procedure as well as approval from other member states.

In the case of Afghanistan the Islamic Republic of Iran would do its best to speed up its admission to the regional organisation.

Founded by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, ECO was recently expanded to include the Caucasus Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Central Asian Republics of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Another former Soviet republic, Kazakhstan, is currently an observer at the ECO.

Iran Elected FAO Regional Representative

LD2005153992 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has been elected at the regional conference of the Near East of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) as regional representative in the study research group.

The decision was made here at the Tuesday session of FAO. The international agro-study and research group includes 17 international research centers throughout the world which is engaged in agricultural research and offers help to member states.

It is expected that the presence of Iran in the group will help promote agriculture progress in the region.

President Cited on Revolutionary Courts

LD2105153792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 21 May 92

[Excerpts] At a meeting today with Islamic revolution prosecutors from all over the country, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the blessings and advantages of revolutionary courts for the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Citing the invaluable services of the revolutionary courts—which welcomed danger and gave martyrs for the revolution—the president said: If one regards the matter as a whole, that organization was very useful in terms of defending the Islamic revolution. Now, many of its problems and shortcomings have been eradicated. With a new direction, the judiciary now provides a sort of reassurance to society, a confidence that did not exist among people who dealt with that organization in the early days of the revolution because of hasty judgments. [passage omitted]

The president stressed the importance of maintaining judges' standards of living. He said: We expect the judiciary to help reform the country's executive branch, within the scope of its duties. And if any corruption is seen, we not only expect them to not overlook it but we insist that they should be more strict, which is the wish of the people and executive officials of the country.

He said: The matter should be dealt with in such a way that the guilty—and not the innocent—fear the judiciary, for there are mischievous individuals who, by distorting the reputation of the country's earnest officials, prevent matters from proceeding properly. Honest officials in the executive branch should have confidence in their work.

Stressing the importance of full coordination between executive and judicial authorities, the president said: We gain nothing from the judiciary overlooking misappropriations of funds in various departments. Our general policy is that we should deal seriously with corruption and offenses. But one should be watchful of troublemakers. [passage omitted]

President on Anniversary of Khorramshahr Liberation

LD2005162992 Tehran IRNA in English 1402 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—Liberation of Khorramshahr is "the best proof" of the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the 1980-88 war with Iraq, remarked President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. Speaking at a meeting with the officials of the headquarters for convening of the ceremonies marking the liberation anniverary of Khorramshahr today, Rafsanjani termed

the operations that liberated the port city on May 24, 1982 as "swift and lightning, with minor casualties and great achievements".

"The world acknowledged our victory and the defeat of Iraq," maintained Rafsanjani, adding that these operations had some other impacts as well. "The superpowers and the reactionaries adopted new positions against us, took measures to save Iraq, boosted their support for that regime, and gave it the green light to commit fresh crimes," he added.

The president pointed out to the world's confession of the Islamic Republic's righteousness in the imposed war and said: "We have attained our political rights and regained our reputation against the charges of warmongering. Now the world's judgement about us is realistic and the legal issues of the war are also reaching a desirable point," Rafsanjani concluded.

Pakistan

Borders of Sindh Province Sealed

BK2105125192 Karachi DAWN in English 21 May 92 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, May 20—Pakistan has sealed its southeastern borders with India, adjacent to the troubled province of Sindh in anticipation of the massive crackdown expected any moment on anti-social and anti-State elements.

Informed sources revealed that the sealing of the borders was part of the plan to close all the escape routes of dacoits and their politically powerful patrons so that the operation does not end with most or some of the wanted people seeking refuge in India.

"It is likely that the borders of Sindh with Punjab and Balochistan may also be sealed so that the dacoit menace could be eliminated once for all," a responsible source said on Wednesday.

The crackdown approved by the political and military leaders at a GHQ [General Headquarters] meeting on Tuesday has not yet begun, sources said.

"We are making the plans," Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah told DAWN on telephone from Karachi late on Wednesday night.

"Don't ask me the details and we will talk about it later," Mr Shah said when asked to confirm whether the borders with India had been sealed.

Sources in the capital said a major shake-up of the Sindh administration was also in the offing with replacement of the Chief Secretary, the Inspector-General of Police and the Home Secretary on the cards.

A number of names were in circulation and, according to knowledgeable sources in the Federal Cabinet the changes were "inevitable".

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in the meantime summoned an unexpected meeting of the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] parliamentary party on Thursday morning in which the Sindh situation is likely to figure prominently.

IJI sources were trying to minimise the importance of the parliamentary party meeting by telling mediamen that it would discuss the budget strategy and imposition of an agricultural tax, but sources said the Prime Minister wanted to put the Sindh crisis before his coalition partners so that a consensus could be evolved.

Informed sources said the Government was in two minds about launching of the crackdown at a time when the IJI was in the middle of getting its budget passed, especially at a time when most of the IJI partners had already jumped the ship, and the IJI had to depend on its other partners like the ANP [Awami National Party], MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] and the recent addition, PNP [Pakistan National Party] of Mr Bizen Bizenjo.

But if the IJI party approves the Sindh operation on Thursday with a massive vote, the Federal Government is likely to issue the notification to hand over powers to the armed forces under Article 245 of the Constitution.

This article provides that the armed forces shall, under the directions of the Federal Government "defend Pakistan against external aggression or threat of war, and, subject to law, act in aid of civil power when called upon to do so."

The validity of any direction issued by the Federal Government under Clause 1 shall not be called into question in any court, and the High Courts shall not exercise any jurisdiction in relation to the area in which the armed forces are, for the time being acting in aid of civil power.

The Opposition has not as yet reacted adversely to the proposed crackdown in Sindh but the issue was raised by the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] MNA [Members of National Assembly] from Jhelum, Choudhry Altaf Hussain, in the National Assembly on Wednesday evening when he asked the Federal Government to take the House into confidence on what was happening in Sindh.

The Treasury Bench did not respond to the query.

Opposition sources said the PDA was waiting for the details of the proposed action plan to become available before they could offer any comment.

These sources also said if the operation was launched in a "fair and impartial manner, beginning with the culprits in urban and rural areas alike," they may not have any serious objection.

"If the crackdown turns not to be a massive effort to victimise the Opposition and settle old scores, it would

have tremendously negative implications for the province." A senior opposition leader who wished not to be identified said.

Army To Control 'Deteriorating' Situation

BK2105125892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The federal interior minister, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, has said Mehran Force has been entrusted with task to control the deteriorating law and order situation in Sindh in consultation with the provincial government. In a statement in the National Assembly this morning, he said the action has been taken in view of the increase in the incidents of dacoity [robberies], kidnappings, attacks on trains, terrorist activities, and other heinous crimes.

He said the Mehran Force has been given [placed] under the operational control of the 5th Corps [of the Army] to effectively handle terrorist activities. The administrative control of the force would remain in the hands of the Rangers. The interior minister denied the impression that the Federal Government was taking action in Sindh on its own. He said whatever action would be taken, it would be in consultation with the provincial government.

He said the prime minister has given instructions that anybody involved in heinous crimes should not be spared whatever his political affiliations may be. However, this action is not aimed at political victimization, but is against criminals. Chaudhary Shujat Hussain asked the opposition to come forward and cooperate with the government in checking lawlessness in Sindh in the interest of the country.

Sharif Explains Deployment

BK2105153092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the government has decided to launch an operation in Sindh Province to eliminate dacoits [bandits], terrorists, kidnappers, criminals, and those elements who attack trains to restore law and order. Talking to newsmen at parliament house in Islamabad after the meeting of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] and allied groups today, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the Mehran Force has been deployed to take action against lawbreakers who have disturbed law and order situation in the province. He said antistate elements and foreign hands are involved in the unrest in Sindh and situation needs immediate remedial measures. The prime minister said the operation will continue till the objectives are achieved. It is our earnest desire to achieve these objectives as soon as possible and it is hoped that the operation is completed soon with success and lawbreakers are eliminated.

To a question, the prime minister said the government will bring all facts before the nation about the arrest of workers of Al-Zulfiqar organization. Evidence says they are involved in terrorist activities. This fact has further been substantiated after initial investigations.

Asked about the invitation to the chief of the Army staff, General Asif Nawaz, to visit India, the prime minister said confidence-building measures cannot be successful until the Kashmir issue is resolved. The situation in Kashmir is worsening day by day, which is a matter of serious concern to Pakistan. Interference in Sindh Province and Kashmir situation are the hurdles in the establishment of cordial relations between the two countries.

Referring to situation in Afghanistan, the prime minister said things are moving in the right direction. He said Peshawar agreement is being implemented and that he is satisfied about the developments in Afghanistan.

Earlier, addressing the parliamentary party meeting of IJI and its allies, the prime minister categorically stated that the operation in Sindh is not intended against any political party. The sole objective is to combat nagging lawlessness, to restore peace and normalcy, and to bring relief to the people. The prime minister said the spirit of patriotism, honesty, and larger interest of the country are behind launching the operation. Those who have respect for law and are innocent need not worry.

He said the situation in Sindh warranted a decisive step and the government could ill afford any delay. The deteriorating law and order situation in the province vitiated investment climate, especially from abroad. It militates against our economic program. We cannot translate our projects and plans into reality unless terrorism is wiped out. The prime minister said we have to save Sindh to save Pakistan.

Some members also participated in the discussion. Other subjects on the agenda were postponed.

Paper Views Army Deployment

BK2105164192 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 21 May 92 p 10

[Editorial: "The Perils of Sending Army Into Sinndh"]

[Text] In a meeting at the GHQ [General Headquarters] in Islamabad, Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif has revived what he had stopped in March: the proposal to send the army and paramilitary troops into Sindh against dacoity and kidnapping. Luckily, the army is not interested in using article 245 suspending the jurisdiction of the provincial judiciary in favour of military courts, something that former COAS [Chief of Army Staff] Mirza Aslam Beg wanted from erstwhile prime minister Ms Benazir Bhutto. The GHQ meeting has reportedly decided that the army formations will work under the civilian administration while rounding up the criminals. It is also reported that the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] chief Ms Bhutto has been consulted on this decision and that she has assented to it, while some PDA elements say that the real solution to the problem is re-election in Sindh. Sindh chief minister

Muzaffar Hussain Shah is allegedly unhappy with this revival of army action because he sees it as a curtailment of his civilian authority in the province. The GHQ seems to be 'impartial' in its approach to the law and order problem in Sindh. This surely means that the action might hurt the entrenched elements of both MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] and Sindh aristocracy currently enjoying a mutually; convenient co-existence. Since the army action will cover both rural and urban Sindh, it will succeed only if the sane elements on both sides of the ethnic divide perceive it as even-handed.

But there are fears about the action that must be expressed. Sindh has not benefited from similar army forays into the province even though one must heed the observation that the situation obtaining today has little precedence. These fears emanate from the GHQ conditionality that the troops would be subordinated to local Sindh administration. The troops may be used by the Sindh administration against opposition elements which it equates with outlaws. The GHQ may not be able to see, or may ignore, that a part of the Sindh administration which is itself involved in unlawful activity, and may thus get involved in the political vendetta. Since some of the civilian officers are said to be themselves involved in dacoities, it would be unfair on the part of the army officers to accept the administration's definition of who is an outlaw and who is not. Many 'outlaws' may in fact turn out to be elements forced to take to armed activity because of the past behaviour of the Sindh administration, and army action may therefore intensify the victimisation and give further impetus to the forces of secessionism in the province. If an operation by the army goes against elements supported either by the MQM or the ruling elite, the civilian administration may move to get them off the hook, thus creating rifts between army officers and the Sindh government. Unless, as a result of the 'findings' during operations, the Sindh government is prepared to modify its policies vis-a-vis the Sindhi opposition, army action will really be quite ineffective and irrelevant. The old pattern of punishing certain villages because they are unable to 'cooperate' against the dacoits must not be revived, simply because the villagers no longer trust that the state is able to save them from the wrath of the dacoits informed against. The truth of the matter is that army action usually tends to alienate a lot of 'normal' citizenry because of the summary nature of its action. For instance, in East Punjab the Indian troops have offended the local population more than they have effectively removed the terrorists from the scene. It should be remembered that Sindh is alienated from the centre in the same measure and has been seeing it as supinely accepting the cruel writ of the Sindh administration.

Sindh Health Department Director Kidnapped

BK2105125692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Four armed persons are reported to have kidnapped the director general of Sindh Health Department, Dr. (Sajjan Memon), this morning from a point about 12 km from Hyderabad on the super highway. According to APP, his Pajero jeep was also taken away by the kidnappers. A heavy police contingent is said to be chasing the culprits.

Paper Views ISI Chief Visit to Afghanistan

BK2105134392 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 21 May 92 p 7

[Editorial: "Role confusion"]

[Text] Pakistan television flashed pictures Tuesday night of a Pakistani delegation visiting Kabul. According to this broadcast, the delegation discussed with officials of the Afghan interim government how Pakistan could help rebuild the war ravaged country's infrastructure. There is of course nothing exceptionable about this. Indeed it is gratifying to note that Pakistan is already engaged in efforts to help in Afghanistan's reconstruction. However, there is something rather disconcerting about who headed this delegation. The PTV [Pakistan Television] broadcast said that the delegation was led by the director general of the inter-services intelligence (ISI). This is the second visit to Kabul of Lt. General Javed Nasir; he earlier accompanied Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif when he undertook a lightening trip to Kabul.

On this occasion, the General is reported to also have conveyed a message of goodwill from President Ghulam Islaq Khan, the Prime Minister and "the people of Pakistan." This high profile role of the chief spy master of Pakistan's premier intelligence agency is really quite unusual. Its rough equivalent abroad would be the CIA director visiting Russia to discuss the aid the United States is giving that country to help it out of rough economic weather. That would be sure to raise eyebrows if it ever happened, which is highly unlikely. The world-wide practice is for chiefs of intelligence agencies to keep their profile low, and certainly not be engaged in conducting diplomacy and being photographed doing this.

That being so, the question that is raised is why is this happening in our case? Have we run out of diplomats or other officials who can either carry messages of goodwill "from the people of Pakistan" or discuss matters with the ministries of Reconstruction, Information, Water and Power, as the ISI chief is reported to have done? This disturbing affair comes just when there was some relief here that, with the Jamaat-e-Islami offloaded from the IJI, [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad], the government had returned foreign-policy making and the conduct of diplomacy to where it belongs. But it now seems as if the task has been assigned to an intelligence agency. This suggests severe role confusion. The ISI, we are sure, has many an important task to perform. Surely its chief should not be distracted from his real job, vital as it is. Nor should the government put diplomats out of work.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Kazakhstan

BK2105054592 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] A memorandum of understanding was signed in Islamabad yesterday on the use of proposed $10 million credit facility by Pakistan for Kazakhstan. Under the credit facility, Kazakhstan will purchase from Pakistan textiles, pharmaceuticals, shoes, machinery and other commodities.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani bankers delegation will soon visit Kazakhstan to explore prospects of setting up joint banking ventures. This was stated by Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz while talking to (Kezonov Balatkhan), the first deputy minister for Kazakhstan's foreign economic affairs, in Islamabad yesterday. They discussed matters of mutual interest, especially increasing economic cooperation between the two countries.

President To Open Redesigned Research Reactor

BK2105133992 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 21 May 92 p 6

[Text] Islamabad, May, 20—The President, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan will inaugurate the redesigned and upgraded research reactor at the Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology [PINSTECH] on Monday May 25.

The 5-megawatt research reactor, installed in 1966, operated as a major research facility for almost 25 years. However, due to embargo on the supply of highly enriched uranium fuel, it was decided to convert the reactor to low enriched uranium and simultaneously upgrade its power from 5 MW to 10 MW as well as extend the life of the reactor for another 25 years. Accordingly, a major design effort was mounted by PAEC [Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission] scientists and engineers and the reactor was successfully redesigned and upgraded.

The new reactor went critical on October 31, last year and achieved full power on the 7th of this month marking a significant step toward Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission's indigenisation effort in the field of reactor technology.

The inauguration of the reactor is taking place on the occasion of 25 years of research activities at PINSTECH. The President will preside over the Silver Jubilee function of the Institute.

Over the years, PINSTECH has emerged as the premier research Institute and has made notable contribution towards the implementation of country's nuclear programme. The Institute has kept pace with the latest trends in sophisticated disciplines like nuclear physics, nuclear chemistry, environmental science, hydrology, nuclear engineering, computers, materials science and radioisotope production and application. The Institue has the largest collection of the scientific literature in the country and has at its premises a full fledged centre for training its own scientists and engineers.

Bid To Smuggle Charas, Liquor, Weapons Foiled

BK2105132492 Islamabad THE NATION in English 21 May 92 p 1

[Text] Rawalpindi—Foiling an attempt to smuggle a huge quantity of narcotics, the Cantt [Cantonment] Police have recovered more than 10 maunds of charas worth Rs [Rupees] 1.5 million, foreign liquor and lethal weapons from a car during the checking at Naseerabad post on Tuesday [19 May] night.

This was claimed by SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] Rawalpindi, Rao Mohammad Iqbal while addressing a hurriedly called Press conference in his office on Wednesday morning. He said that the ASP [Assistant Superintendent of Police] Cantt received information that a Datsun 120Y car No. D-8477 Karachi carried charas, liquor and illicit arms from tribal areas and Peshawar down to Rawalpindi for their further transportation to cities of interior Punjab.

ASP Cantt Bani Amin arranged raiding party headed by SHO [Station House Officer] Westridge, Inspector Mian Mehbub Akhter and directed them to observe Naga Bandi [siege] near Naseerabad check post.

Rao Mohammad Iqbal said that during checking at Naqa Bandi point Datsun car No. D-8477 Karachi happened to pass there and Inspector Mian Mehbub Akhter signalled to stop but the driver tried to fled away from the venue. The car was prevented immediately and on checking eight boxes of charas were recovered from the said car besides apprehended two culprits Chan Firdous of Lane No. 4 Westridge and Abdullah of Mohallah Kot Murad Khan, district Kasur.

The SSP said that on identification of the accused six boxes of charas, two guns of 12 bore and one carbine were also recovered from the house of Chan Firdous.

Peshawar Customs Seize 2,700 Kg Charas

BK2105133092 Islamabad THE NATION in English 21 May 92 p 13

[Text] Peshawar—The Peshawar Customs Staff foiled a smuggling attempt of contrabands to down country recovering 2700 kg of charas from an oil tanker and arresting two persons.

The customs staff blocked Dera Ismail Khan road and stopped the tanker No. Jt 6163. The staff recovered 2700 kg of charas from it. A case against driver Lal Mohammad and conductor Khushhal has been registered.

Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Rules Out Banning LTTE

BK2105173692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has rejected the demand by some opposition parties to ban the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], declaring that the government will not prejudge the issue and take precipitous unilateral action. In its first response to India's decision on banning the LTTE, the prime minister, Mr. D.B. Wijetunge, said in Colombo that he is aware of the developments.

Eight Soldiers Killed in 2 LTTE Attacks

BK2205113292 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] The security forces repulsed two LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] attacks yesterday. Eight soldiers succumbed to their injuries. Colonel Sarath Munasinghe told newsmen yesterday that one incident took place between Nanaddan and Vankalai in the Mannar district where six soldiers were killed. He said the confrontation lasted 30 minutes. LTTE casualties were not known. Col. Munasinghe also said that the other incident took place at Weli Oya where two soldiers were killed. Six Tamil villagers around a Muslim village at Kallamadu in Batticaloa were hacked to death by an unknown group. He added that on the same day, a mutilated body of a Muslim villager, who had gone to collect firewood the previous day, was found by the security forces. He said the report of three-member committee on the recent (Aninchputhani) incident was getting delayed as the Tamil villager who took part in the massacre surrendered to the security forces three days ago.

Meanwhile, the secretary to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Social Welfare, Christie Silva, said that the number of Sri Lankan refugees who have arrived so far from Tamil Nadu is 23,109. The next batch is due on the 2d of next month.

Minister on Extradition of Tamil Militants

BK2105121892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] A Sri Lankan cabinet minister has said that his country will go by the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and Commonwealth treaties on the issue of extradition to India of the island nation's Tamil militants allegedly involved in Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. Talking to newsmen in Washington, the Sri Lankan industry minister, Mr. Wickremasinghe, said extradition is basically a judicial process. He said so far India has not initiated the extradition process. In the charge-sheet of the Rajiv Gandhi assassination filed in the designated court at Madras yesterday, 26 of the 41 accused are Sri Lankan nationals.

Premadasa Urges 'Aid Without Strings'

BK1905193992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1550 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] Colombo, May 19 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Tuesday urged Asian and Far East nations to accept aid without strings and resist attempts by developed states to pressure poor countries through human rights.

"Should we not evolve a common stand on aid without strings? We should resist attempts by developed countries to put pressure on the poorer countries through the mechanism of human rights," Premadasa told diplomats here.

An official communique said Premadasa made the remarks during informal discussions with heads of mission from China, Burma, South Korea, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malyasia on ways of strengthening bilateral relations.

Sri Lanka's Western aid donors have frequently criticised the country's human rights record and even threatened to cut off assistance unless the human rights situation was improved.

A ministerial meeting in Bali of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) and a December summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) had also echoed similar views on aid linked to human rights.

The communique also quoted Premadasa as saying that the Non Aligned Movement should now concentrate more on "economic issues" since many political issues have been resolved.

The Sri Lankan leader, who is also current chairman of the seven-member SAARC, called for active South-South cooperation, intra-regional trade and a united stand on global environmental issues, terrorism, drugs, AIDS and refugees.

Premadasa said that SAARC had given him a mandate to explore possibilities of cooperation between the South Asian grouping and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"We hope ASEAN member states will cooperate in this endeavour both here in Colombo as well as in your respective capitals," Premadasa told the meeting which was also attended by Foreign Minister Harold Herat and other senior officials.